

Welcome To Year 4!



Dear Parents/Carers,

Friday 11th September 2020

Welcome back to school and welcome to Year 4!

We hope you have all had a good summer break and your children have enjoyed their first week in Year 4. We are looking forward to working in partnership with you over the coming year. This should be a very enjoyable and stimulating year as we have so many exciting learning experiences planned!

Staff

Willow Class

Teachers: Mrs D Rogers: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; Mrs J Wilson: Friday.

Senior Teaching Assistant: Mrs M Ware (Covering the class on Tuesday afternoons).

Oak Class

Teacher: Miss G Blake: Monday, Tuesday and Friday; Mrs J Haddon: Wednesday and Thursday.

Senior Teaching Assistant: Mrs G Hurrell (Covering the class alternate Tuesday afternoons).

Shared Teaching Assistant: Mrs C Eddy (Monday to Friday am).

Communication

The children should now be used to walking round the outside of the building to the classroom from the gate. Please ensure that they **arrive at school promptly** for the time the gate opens: 8:45 Oak and 9:00 Willow. After hand washing and organising their belongings, the children enter the classroom and begin the day by practising important maths and literacy skills.

Home School communication books (**Fish books**) will be issued next week. As well as recording reading at home please use the book to communicate with us for any minor queries and to let us know of any changes to collection arrangements (including play dates) or appointment times.

We can also be contacted via e mail:

deborah.rogers@firslower.org

georgia.blake@firslower.org

joanna.haddon@firslower.org

If you wish to discuss anything with us of course, at any point during the year, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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Reading Books

We have a revised system for changing reading books throughout the whole school this year; further details of which are on the newsletter.

In Year 4, free readers (children who have completed all the colour levels on the reading scheme) can choose books directly from the shelves inside and outside the Year 4 classrooms; **due to certain restrictions this year unfortunately, we are asking them not to bring a book from home.** Children on our reading programme will continue to read books at the appropriate level which are colour coded to correspond to our RWI programme. Children who have completed the RWI programme but are not yet free readers will progress through the gold and black levels. As a starting point the children will be given books from the same colour level as they were reading in Year 3; these will then be adjusted accordingly. The children will be changing and selecting their own books (after hand washing). Books that have been returned from home will be stored separately until they are able to be mixed back in with the others. **For this reason we are asking that children only change books on Mondays and Thursdays and only take one book each time.**

Please hear your child read as often as you can, try to set aside a few minutes most days, even if your child is a confident reader, they will still reap the benefits. Reading aloud is a very different skill requiring the children to adopt a storyteller's voice and a lot can be gained from discussing events and characters, predicting what may happen, inferring information (reading between the lines) and discussing the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary and the effectiveness of exciting vocabulary. Please do not feel that you have to read a whole book in one sitting; little and often is usually best with time to read the words and time to chat and comprehend what has been read. The children will also be reading in school as part of their literacy lessons, doing comprehension activities from extracts of books, reading and discussing texts in guided reading with the teacher and they will be heard individually once every half term by their class teacher to assess their progress. **Please ensure that your child has his/her reading book and reading log (fish book) in school every day. They may like to carry them in a school book-bag to protect them from the elements; letters can also be carried in this way but please do not put water bottles in there as they often leak. No rucksacks please.**

In addition to this, all the children are able to choose a library book from school which they enjoy reading in spare time and in quiet reading sessions; this book stays in school. At the moment these books are chosen from our Year 4 collection but more choices will be offered when our new library is established.

Uniform and equipment

We would be grateful if you could ensure that all of your child's uniform, coat, water bottle and school equipment is named; this helps us to return lost property items back to their owners quickly. Please ensure that children are dressed according to the school's uniform policy and are ready to begin the day as **smart learners.**

Most children have now brought in their transparent pencil case filled with a set of basic stationery equipment - this needs to stay at school. Some children have their own small bottle of anti-bacterial hand gel. This has been handy in quickening up queues. If you are able to provide one for your child, it would be very much appreciated. Water bottles should be brought to school every day with fresh water inside. Please also ensure that your child has a healthy snack for break time.

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PE

Willow Class will do PE on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Oak Class will do PE on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Your child should come to school in their PE kit on their PE days, still looking like smart learners for other lessons that day. We are keen to encourage a positive attitude towards sports and exercise so please ensure they are dressed appropriately for the weather with jumpers, fleeces and tracksuit bottoms as it grows colder as we will be doing PE outside each week. We prefer that children wear comfortable **trainers** as they provide better support than plimsolls. Please ensure that earrings are left at home and hair below shoulder length is tied up on those days.

External sports coaches will be coming in to teach the children at different times throughout the year.

Immediately after half term we will be going swimming at Flitwick Leisure Centre on Wednesday afternoons for 6 sessions. (More details to follow).

Homework

We will be sending out learning logs next week. There will be a grid of homework tasks linked to the children's learning in school. The children should choose one task each week to complete. We are looking to revise our current homework provision; next term details of this will be shared.

Art/DT

During art and DT sessions the children will often engage in messy activities. Please ensure that your child has an old **named** art shirt that they can leave in school for these occasions. Please don't buy anything - an old adult sized shirt or t-shirt is ideal.

Spellings

Our spelling provision is also under review this year. We will be teaching the children spelling patterns and families as well as common exception words and then providing different spellings for groups to practise, including overlearning spellings to help with long term memory and transfer into free writing (further details to follow). The children will have a spelling assessment this half term to establish their confidence and accuracy. For now, please spend time practising common exception words sent with this letter.

Each week use the Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check method to help the children to learn spellings; again, **little and often works best**. Please also revisit those not mastered from previous weeks.

Maths

At the end of this year the Year 4 children will be sitting a national computerised test assessing their ability to recall their **multiplication tables** at speed (6 seconds per question including typing the answer!) Please

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support your child to learn their tables by making regular use of **Times Table Rockstars** as well as any other games, charts, quizzes, etc. that will help at home. In addition to this please practise everyday opportunities for using maths e.g. counting in many different steps, using money, telling the time, looking at the properties of shapes, sharing into fractions, measuring and reading charts and tables. Practise number skills like 1, 10 and 100 more and less, doubling and halving, counting in tens starting from any number (e.g. 73, 83, 93, 103, 113, 123) number bonds (e.g. $4 + 6 = 10$, $12 + 8 = 20$, $30 + 70 = 100$, $42 + 58 = 100$) and quick mental addition and subtraction.

End of Day Arrangements

During the course of this year (circumstances permitting) we will be writing to parents about allowing children to walk home without an adult in the summer term (as this is a good preparation for middle school next September). However, until that point we still need collection arrangements to be the same as in previous years. **If there are any changes to this, including an older sibling taking that responsibility, we would ask that you contact the office or write in the fish book as normal.** Thank you.

Parent Helpers

Normally, we would welcome parent helpers to hear readers or support art and DT lessons. However, at this time we are unable to ask for parent helpers. We will be in touch when we are able to welcome you back into school again.

Thank you in anticipation for your support

Year 4 Team