

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 4! I hope that you have all had a lovely holiday and are looking forward to the term ahead. I am looking forward to working with the children this year and I am sure that they will be keen to get involved in the exciting topics that are lined up for the coming year.

### English

Our class texts this term are 'Tar Beach' and 'Annie Lumsden, the Girl from the Sea'. We will be having four writing lessons each week and a reading comprehension lesson. This will allow us to focus on a range of skills needed for upper KS2. We are now using the 'Literacy Tree' which provides great opportunities for the children to explore the themes of the books with a range of different activities. The theme we are starting with is 'freedom'.



### Reading

Please encourage your children to read at home. This is a huge focus for us in the coming months. Reading daily with adult support is crucial for your child to make good progress. This could be through listening to your child read or by reading more complex texts to them.

All reading done at home needs to be recorded regularly in your child's organiser and we will check this daily.

Your child needs their reading book in school each day. Whilst the children are reading from our school scheme, they will choose their books in school based on their current level. As they progress to become free readers, they are welcome to choose a book from our school library or bring in a book from home.



### RE

In RE this term, we are learning about Jesus' ancestors and how family helps to shape who we become. We will then move onto our topic of 'Belonging' and how Christians are entered into God's world through Baptism.

### Topic

Our first geography topic this term is 'Earthquakes'.

Throughout the topic, we will be learning about tectonic plate movements and significant earthquakes that have occurred since recording began. We will then move on to our first science unit, which is 'The Digestive System'.

Our topics are still placed within 3-week units. After half term, we will be learning all about the Romans for our first history unit and subsequently 'Electricity' for our science unit.

### Homework

Each week, the children will be set spellings and times tables homework. We will also be encouraging the children to read at home as much as possible and it would be wonderful if you could ensure this is happening on a regular basis. We will be checking organisers regularly so please could you sign them if your child has been reading at home. Spellings and times tables will be tested every Friday and new spellings will be given out at the end of each test. Spelling lists will be recorded in organisers. Times Tables Rockstars is still running for the children to access at home- logins are in organisers. These are the same as last year's logins. Grammar or topic homework may also be set - this will be done via Class Dojo on a Friday, to be returned by the following Thursday.

**In year 4, we put a lot of focus on our times tables knowledge as we have our 'Year 4 Times Tables Check' at the end of the year. Spending some time on TT Rockstars each day will significantly increase your child's fluency and recall of their tables. This Check will be in June 2024.**

### Communication

I look forward to getting to know you throughout the year, but if you have any concerns about any of the above, or about your child, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can either make an appointment with me directly, or through the office.



### A note from Mrs Massey

I know a lot of the children already as I worked closely with year 3 last year and I look forward to continuing to get to know the children as they move into year 4. We've got lots of exciting things planned and hope to plan in some amazing school trips too!