



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 4. We hope you and your family had an enjoyable summer break and that your child has started to settle into the routines which come with being in Year 4. To make the home school partnership easier and to ensure it works effectively in supporting your child, here is some information about the topics we will be covering in the curriculum between now and Christmas. We hope it is both interesting and useful.

Reading

Reading is the key to access every area of the curriculum. Children should read on a daily basis. They are aware that they need to take their diary home every afternoon and bring it into school the following morning. The expectation this year is that your child will make an independent entry in their reading diary at least three times a week. This only needs to be one or two sentences but serves to be an incredibly effective activity for practising and improving sentence structure. Ideas for meaningful comments can be found stuck into the inside cover of their reading diaries. We encourage a range of these to be recorded during the course of a week.

Even though they do this part of the task independently, please continue to hear your child read aloud as much as you are able, even if they are fluent readers. It is of benefit if, while reading with them, you explore the text together, questioning them on meaning and discussing any unfamiliar vocabulary or terms. This is invaluable in supporting their comprehension skills. Research shows that children who read regularly reap the benefits in many areas, not least their confidence. When a book doesn't 'float the boat', try to use fun games like searching for a word on a page in a limited amount of time (good for skimming skills). You could take roles as you read together; you become the narrator, your child the characters in the story reading aloud the direct speech. This encourages them to look closely at the punctuation and it can become a really fun activity if they are encouraged to use dialect or different voices to distinguish one character from another. The reading diary can also be used for communication should you wish to add your own comments. Your views are always helpful. In addition, please encourage your child to include entries in their diary for any additional books they read at home, whether they're fiction or non-fiction. We enjoy seeing their choices as it can tell us so much about them individually.

Homework

Homework will continue to be set on Google Classroom usually on Thursday to be back the following Tuesday. Generally, your child will be given an English and Maths task each week alongside weekly spellings although occasionally other subjects may be included. **Homework should be neatly presented**; we have the same expectations for homework as we do for work completed in the classroom. While it is set on Google Classroom, the task should be completed in your child's homework exercise book.

Spellings will be done using Spelling Shed which your child is already familiar with. Spelling Stars will also be given out at the beginning of every term for a test on the Wednesday of the final week. Please encourage your child to practise spellings on a regular basis, whether its weekly spellings following a pattern or Spelling Star words. It will benefit them considerably as they continue through Key Stage 2. In addition, the children will have a times table to learn each week depending on which ones they know already. They will be tested each Monday. This is to make sure that they are as fluent as possible for the national Multiplication Tables Check in June. Thank you in advance for your support in ensuring your child is well prepared for this important test.

P.E.

Teal Class will have P.E on Monday each week with Mr. Whittle and again on Thursday. On these days, your child should come to school wearing their P.E. kit. **Please refer to the school website regarding correct P.E. kit** noting that black items are not permitted. If you could ensure that all items are clearly named, we would be most grateful.

Classroom Equipment

The emphasis on handwriting and presentation will continue this year and the children have made an excellent start so far. We will be giving them clear development points to improve their handwriting and reach a consistently

high standard. Please provide your child with two pencils, a handwriting pen, a rubber, a ruler, a sharpener and coloured pencils. These items should all be named. **Please remember that toys are not permitted at school. Small toys such as keyrings and detachable parts on top of pens, are a distraction and take up desk space. They can be broken or lost, which also causes avoidable issues.** The space in cloakrooms, which they share with Year 3, is limited so do discourage your child from bringing in unnecessary items. Bags should be small enough to fit on a peg. Thank you.

Curriculum

Alongside our history topic this term, in English, our reading and writing will be inspired by life as an Anglo Saxon. Next term we will study 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. As part of regular Big Writes, the children will be exposed to a range of genres and writing styles. They will learn how to write descriptively using a range of figurative language, they will write in the style of a diary and they will explore types of non-fiction writing so they have a good understanding of how a newspaper report differs from a fact file for instance.

In Maths we will be continuing with learning times tables in preparation for the MTC, (Multiplication Tables Check) in June and also deepening our understanding of place value, rounding, addition and subtraction. We will continue to look at different strategies for calculating while building confidence in mental maths. In science we are studying animals including humans, focusing on the digestive system. During Science & Technology Week we will cover the topic of sound, returning to digestion the following week. Our history topic will cover the Anglo Saxons followed by a geography focus after half term with an emphasis on atlas skills, map work, compass points and direction. In Computing we will be learning about systems and networks. In RE we will consider the question 'Do Murti's help Hindu's to understand God?' followed by 'Why is Mary so important in the Christmas narrative?' In PSHE this term, we will cover the topic, My Healthy Self which explores how making healthy choices supports both physical and mental wellbeing. In term 2 Connecting with Others explores how we can treat each other respectfully. In Music, our topics will focus on using tuned percussion instruments with the Rainforest as a stimulus. Our computing topic will be Online Safety.

Attendance:

In line with the DfE, it is our aim that the attendance of pupils at our school is as close to 100% as possible. An attendance figure of less than 90% (**which equates to a child missing half a day of school every week**) is significant; in these circumstances, a child is classified as **persistently absent**.

While we understand that there are genuine reasons, notably illness, which mean it is not appropriate to send your child to school, as I am sure you can appreciate, any time away from the classroom is incredibly disruptive. A lesson missed puts a child at a disadvantage especially when that lesson falls within a sequence of planned learning activities. It can increase anxiety and in some cases affect social interactions and friendship groups.

In addition, research has been carried out which shows a clear link between attendance and attainment at all key stages: [The link between attendance and attainment in an assessment year](#) In summary, from the data analysed: at KS2, pupils who attended school nearly every day in Year 6 (with an attendance rate of 95-100%) were 1.3 times more likely to achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to pupils who only attended 90-95% of the time. **This means missing just 10 days of Year 6 reduced the likelihood of reaching the expected standard by around 25%.** Pupils who attended nearly every day were 1.8 times more likely to achieve the standard than persistently absent pupils who only attend 85-90% of the time (relating to 4 -6 weeks more time in school).

The trend continued into Year 11: at KS4, pupils who attended school nearly every day in Year 11 (with an attendance rate of 95-100%) were 1.9 times more likely to achieve the Grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE compared to pupils who only attended 90-95% of the time (relating to up to 2 weeks more time in school over the course of a year) and 3 times more likely than persistently absent pupils who only attend 85-90% of the time (relating to 4 - 6 weeks more time in school). **This means missing just 10 days of year 11 reduced the likelihood of achieving grade 5 in English and Maths by around 50%.**

Therefore, we encourage you to send your child to school unless they have a temperature, are vomiting, have diarrhoea or any of the contagious illnesses as outlined in NHS guidance: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

A request for term time absence for holidays is not permitted. Please refer to the RBWM term time dates that are on our website and that you have been sent a copy of, when booking holidays: [School term dates 2026/27](#) | [School term dates](#) | [Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead](#)

Punctuality:

Arriving promptly in the morning is also important as it will ensure a positive start to the day for your child. The school gate opens at 8:45am **with the expectation that every child has passed through by 8:55am.** The gate will be locked at 9am at which point your child will be marked late.

For a child arriving late, entering a classroom where their peers have already begun the day can be trauma-inducing. Their start to the day is less calm and it is likely they will miss out on early morning activities designed to recap, motivate and engage. Therefore, we encourage you to ensure your child arrives at school as close to 8:45am as possible.

We hope this is helpful but once again, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to make contact – we will endeavour to call you if you send an email to office@holytrinitysch.co.uk. Alternatively, as part of our open-door policy, please feel free to catch us at the end of the day at pick-up.

While this is a class newsletter containing specific information relevant to our class, on a Friday the school newsletter will be emailed to you and posted on our website. Please find a moment to read the weekly newsletter as it will contain important information to help you navigate the term. Thank you.

We look forward to meeting with you soon to discuss your child's individual progress formally at Parents' Evening. Dates for this have already been published on the school's weekly newsletter.

With very best wishes,

Mrs. Lucas and Miss Law