

5th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to welcome you and your children back to school and to an exciting new year of learning in Year 4. The children have already made a fantastic start, and I am really looking forward to the months ahead, filled with new challenges, creativity and discovery.

Below is an overview of some of the exciting learning we will be covering this term.

English

Our theme this term is **Belonging**, inspired by our school ethos and the experience of beginning a new year in a new class – and, for some children, a new school.

We will be exploring *The Hundred Dresses* and *King of the Sky*. Through these engaging texts, the children will develop their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills while exploring important themes such as friendship, identity, acceptance and belonging.

Some of our writing will include:

- A persuasive letter
- A debate to persuade
- A recount
- Poetry

Maths

In Maths, we will begin with **place value**, developing and strengthening the children's understanding of numbers and the relationships between them. We will then move on to **addition and subtraction**, building confidence and accuracy in both mental and written methods.

Science

Our Science topic across the next two terms is **States of Matter**. The children will investigate solids, liquids and gases and explore how materials can change from one state to another. There will be plenty of opportunities for practical investigations and hands-on experiments to bring their scientific learning to life.

Religious Education

This year, Key Stage 2 will follow the Lighting the Path scheme. Our first topic will be **Creation and Covenant**. This will be taught through two separate one-hour RE lessons each week.

Geography

In Geography, we will explore **coastal erosion** and investigate the different ways in which the sea shapes and changes our coastline. The children will also consider how people respond and adapt to changes along our coasts.

Art

Our focus in Art this term will be **monochromatic art**. The children will experiment with different shades, tones and effects, exploring how artists can create striking pieces of artwork using variations of a single colour.

Music

In Music, we will explore **creating composition in response to an animation**. Throughout this topic the children will have opportunities to listen, respond and develop their own musical skills. By the end of the topic children will learn how to:

- Verbalise how the music makes them feel.
- Create actions or movements appropriate to each section of a piece of music.
- Play in time and with an awareness of other pupils' parts, giving some thought to dynamics.

- Play melodies and rhythms which represent the section of animation they are accompanying.

Computing

In Computing, the children will learn how the **internet is a network of networks** and why it needs to be kept secure. We will explore the relationship between the internet and the World Wide Web and consider who owns the content we find online.

Children will also develop their digital literacy skills by learning how to evaluate online information for honesty, accuracy and reliability, as well as considering the impact that false or misleading information can have.

PE

This term, our PE lessons will focus on **mindfulness**, where the children will explore emotions and use mindfulness techniques that can be used to manage feelings effectively. As well as **game sense invasion**, developing passing, moving and dribbling, to create scoring opportunities.

Our PE days are Monday and Thursday. Please ensure that children come to school wearing their PE kits on these days.

French

In French, our topic will be **Pets**. The children will learn and use new vocabulary while continuing to build their confidence in speaking, listening, reading and writing in French.

Literacy Gold

We are delighted to share that we have invested in a new online learning programme for pupils in Years 1 to 6, designed to support the development of grammar, punctuation, reading and spelling skills.

Last academic year, we trialled the programme with selected children and classes and were extremely pleased with the results. We found that regular use of the resource had a significant positive impact on pupils' progress across all these areas.

As a result, we will be sending home your child's login details during our *Meet the Teacher* sessions over the coming week. This will allow you to access the programme at home should you wish to do so.

Please note that this is not part of our compulsory homework programme. However, it provides an excellent opportunity for additional practice and support for those families who have the time and would like to make use of it.

The programme works well on both tablets and computers, making it easy for children to access at home. We hope that many families will find it a valuable and enjoyable resource.

Times Table Rockstars

Having a secure knowledge of, and fluency in, times tables are essential as children progress through school and encounter increasingly complex mathematical concepts. A strong understanding of multiplication facts helps to build confidence and supports success across many areas of mathematics.

We are therefore delighted to be continuing our use of Times Tables Rock Stars (TT Rock Stars) this year. Available for children from Year 2 to Year 6, TT Rock Stars provides a fun, interactive and engaging way for pupils to practise and improve their times tables skills.

Your child's login details will be shared during our *Meet the Teacher* meetings over the coming week, enabling them to access the programme at home.

We encourage families to support times tables learning in whatever way works best for them. TT Rock Stars is just one option, but it is an enjoyable and effective way for children to build their fluency and confidence through regular practice.

Working Together

If you would like to discuss anything with me, please feel free to come and see me at pick-up time or arrange an appointment through the school office.

I am really excited about the year ahead and look forward to working in partnership with you to make Year 4 a happy, successful and enjoyable experience for every child.

Best wishes,

Mrs Newton

Year 4 Teacher