



# Year 4 Autumn Newsletter



Welcome back! It was so lovely to see all your wonderful children returning to school with such big smiles on their faces and a readiness to learn. We are so excited about the year ahead and getting to know your children even better. This is the first of our newsletters and will provide you with any important information that you may need for the term ahead. Please feel free to catch us on the door or call us via the school office if you have any concerns or questions.

## Staff

The teaching staff in Year 4 are Miss Banks, Mrs Stevens and Mrs Brown. Our teaching assistants are Mrs Phillips, Mr Guyatt and Miss Taylor who provide excellent support for all the children in the year group and help to ensure good progress for all. PPA this term will be covered by Mrs Grindrod in Miss Banks' class. Mrs Brown and Mrs Stevens will cover each other's PPA.

## Theme

Our theme for the first term is 'All Aboard the Hogwarts Express!' Since starting Year 4, children have received their very own Hogwarts letter, been sorted into houses at a sorting ceremony and have been set a number of challenges by Hogwart's teachers. So far, we have begun exploring non-chronological reports ready to write our own reports on nifflers, hippogriffs and phoenixes as well as learning about the Alps in Geography and finding out about circuits in science. We would like to be able to share occasional Harry Potter film clips with the children across this term to support their learning. Please discuss with your class teacher should you have any concerns about this.

## End of day routines

We are dismissing all Year 4 children from our external classroom doors. In order for us to dismiss your children as smoothly and quickly as possible, we ask that you inform us of any change in collection arrangements by phoning the school office, letting us know on the door in the morning or by sending in a note with your child. As the children's safety is of the utmost importance, it is really important that we know the arrangements for collection as soon as possible. We would also appreciate it if, when we are dismissing the children, you could wave only when your child is at the front of the line; this should help us to dismiss the children as safely and quickly as possible.

## Snack

As always, children are asked to bring in a **healthy snack** for break times - this could be a piece of fruit or vegetable, yoghurt or cereal bar – and water to drink throughout the day. Year 4 lunchtime begins at 12.30pm. Please ensure that **no nuts or kiwi** products are sent in due to severe allergies amongst children and staff in school. If your child has a packed lunch, please keep this in a separate container. Drinks bottles and lunch boxes must all be named to avoid loss. If you are sending sweets in for your child's birthday, please ensure that they are **nut free**.

## Uniform

The children all looked very smart on the first day of term and we hope this continues throughout the year. All items of clothing and footwear **must be labelled** clearly. The children will be taking part in a range of activities over the course of the year, many of these may be quite messy, therefore, to protect children's clothes, please send in a **named art apron or old shirt**. This can be kept in school for use during lessons. Please find a reminder of our uniform policy below:

	GIRLS	BOYS
Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Yellow polo shirt – school logo is optional (available from Monkhouse)</li> <li>· Green jumper or cardigan - school logo is optional (available from Monkhouse)</li> <li>· Green pinafore dress or skirt; or grey trousers</li> <li>· Green tights or socks</li> <li>· Sensible black shoes (no boots, trainers or heeled shoes)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Yellow polo shirt – school logo is optional (available from Monkhouse)</li> <li>· Green jumper or cardigan - school logo is optional (available from Monkhouse)</li> <li>· Grey trousers</li> <li>· Grey socks</li> <li>· Sensible black shoes (no boots or trainers)</li> </ul>
Summer (optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Summer green striped/checked summer dress; or grey shorts</li> <li>· White socks</li> <li>· Sensible sandals (not open-toed)</li> <li>· No trainers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Grey shorts</li> <li>· Sensible sandals (not open-toed)</li> <li>· No trainers</li> </ul>

### Hair and Jewellery

Hair should be in a style which is smart, safe and suitable for school. Long hair for both girls and boys must be tied back with appropriate bobbles or hair bands. Jewellery is not suitable for school. Children who have pierced ears are permitted to wear a single set of studs. Multiple earrings, hoops or earrings that dangle are not permitted. Earrings need to be removed or taped during PE sessions and swimming. To ease this, we suggest that parents book ear piercing appointments for early in the summer holidays so that earrings can be removed for PE/swimming when school starts in September. Children are not permitted to wear nail varnish or make-up. Children may wear a simple watch, however smart watches are only permitted in Years 5 and 6 with written parental consent.

### P.E.

Children must have their PE kit in school **at all times**. Our P.E. sessions are as follows: Tuesday – indoor P.E. Friday – outdoor P.E. Currently, the Friday slot is replaced by Friday morning swimming sessions. Just to remind you, the P.E. kit is as follows:

	GIRLS	BOYS
PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Black shorts, white T-shirt, black plimsolls (not black soles please)</li> <li>· Black tracksuit</li> <li>· Trainers for outdoor use</li> <li>· Drawstring PE Bag (any colour)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Black shorts, white T-shirt, black plimsolls (not black soles please)</li> <li>· Black tracksuit</li> <li>· Trainers for outdoor use</li> <li>· Drawstring PE Bag (any colour)</li> </ul>

All items of clothing should be **named and in a bag**. We will send P.E. kits home at the end of each week for them to be washed. All earrings must be removed (or taped up if recently pierced) before every P.E. lesson and long hair must be tied up. P.E. kits will be sent home towards the end of the week for washing and must be returned on a Monday morning. As the children are getting older, they may find it useful to bring in some deodorant into school with them to help them feel more comfortable after P.E. If they do bring this in, we ask that it is a roll on rather than an aerosol and that it is named and kept in their bag.

### Classroom routines and rules

During the first week of term, we discussed class rules and expectations. Each class will have these rules on display. Generally, they focus on: respecting others, being polite and hardworking, respecting the classroom and everything in it, having fun but respecting the rules and showing all of our school Learning Values.

### Zone board

This is part of our whole school positive behaviour and relationships policy. Every child begins the day on the 'Sunshine'. When they are spotted doing the right thing, such as following instructions or being kind to others, they are rewarded by moving up to the rocket, and subsequently up to the stars. If they have reached the stars by the end of the day, the children are given a star sticker which they stick onto their collection card. Once a child has earned 10 star stickers, they receive a 'Star Voucher' which will be kept safely for them by the class teacher in the 'Star Bank'. Children can then trade their vouchers for items from Mr Groves' 'Star Shop'. Children are encouraged to consider whether they wish to 'spend' or 'save' their vouchers.

If a child is struggling to make the right choices, they will be moved to the grey 'Choice Cloud' where they will be reminded of the choices they can make regarding their behaviour. As soon as they make the right choice they move back to wherever they had already reached on the zone board. If they continue to struggle to make the right choice or find themselves in a 'stormy moment', they will be moved to the Storm Cloud where they will be supported by an adult to return to the sunshine. All Storm Cloud incidents are recorded; if they become a cause for concern, we will contact you so that we can work in partnership to support your child with their choices.

### Rewards

If a child has done an excellent piece of work, shown one of our Learning Values really well or just generally 'wowed' us, they will be awarded a gold. These children will receive their golds during our Congratulations Assembly on a Friday morning. As well as gold awards, an individual child will be congratulated each week from each class to celebrate their success. When children receive a gold, they will be sent home with a gold slip. If your child is being congratulated, you will receive an email from the school office.

### Homework

Following a review of the timetable in every year group, a school-wide adaptation is being made to homework. Currently, the setting and reviewing of homework takes between 30 to 60 minutes a week. This homework is then completed inconsistently, with some children putting a lot of time into their work and others not completing it all. Therefore, the decision has been made that the hour currently used for homework would be better spent delivering an additional lesson. There are also two key areas of the curriculum where children really benefit from daily practice, so we feel it is better for parents and carers to really focus on these rather than trying to complete a wider set of homework where these two key aspects can be forgotten. From this September, each week we would like every child to complete the following:

1. **Reading.** Your child should read for 10 minutes or more every day. This reading activity needs to be recorded in your child's reading journal, as this will ensure we can work together to track progress.
2. **Times tables.** This comes in two parts. First, your child needs to spend time learning the times table that we have set them. Each child will have a different times table and their learning will be checked through the use of a weekly times table challenge. Second, your child is expected to complete a minimum of 10 minutes of TTRockstars activity over the course of the week. This will be in the form of Garage sessions, which will be set on Friday evenings and needs to be completed by the following Wednesday morning.



### Mental Maths Challenge

Every week your child will take part in a mental maths challenge and we ask that you help your child to practise the skill we have challenged them to daily. Children will need to answer all the questions correctly on two consecutive challenges in order to move up to the next level. They will be able to tell you which challenge they are working on.

At the end of Year 4, in June, your child will be taking the MTC (Multiplication Tables Check). The government expectation, is that children at the end of Year 4, are able to recall times tables up to 12 x 12. In preparation for the MTC towards the end of Year 4, we will be completing regular times table activities in school. Your continued support with this at home is essential to helping the children grow in confidence with their tables and as much as you can practice the better.

### **Reading**

Your child should now have brought home a reading journal and reading book to read to you. We ask that you hear your child read **every day**. When you have heard your child read, please write a comment in the reading journal (examples of comments can be found inside the journal). Children can also write in their journals themselves if they are reading independently. When your child has finished reading their book, please write a comment to that effect in their journal. Your child's book will not be changed without such a comment. Your child should bring both their reading journal and their book to school **every day** even if they have not finished reading it. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Toys and games**

Just a reminder that children are **not** allowed to bring in their own toys and games for golden time or play time. If you do have any old or unwanted board games that you would like to donate to the class for golden time, they would be greatly appreciated.

### **Special Educational Needs**

As a community school we welcome and provide for all children regardless of their culture, background or Special Educational Needs. If you have any concerns about your child's individual needs, please contact the school office to discuss these with us and our school SENDCo (Special Educational needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator) Mrs C. Edwards. We ask that you respect every family and their needs by showing your tolerance and acceptance of every child within our school, especially in front of your own children. If you have any concerns about the behaviour or support given to individual children, we would be happy to discuss our policy with you further via a phone call.

### **E-Safety**

Our children are growing up in a digital world and are likely to be spending increasing amounts of time online as they get older. In order to help them remain safe online and understand both the benefits and potential risks of the internet, we do lots of age-appropriate work around e-safety in our computing lessons and within PSHCE. In addition, we send out an e-safety newsletter to parents/carers each month to keep you up to date with online safety risks, issues, advice and guidance related to keeping children safe online. Please take time to read this and where necessary, have any conversations with your children about the content to ensure they are able to enjoy technology safely and age-appropriately and know what to do if they experience something which worries them online. Please follow this link to see any past newsletters and other useful E-Safety information.

<https://www.lyppardgrange.worcs.sch.uk/online-safety/>

Please note, children in classes from Reception – Year 4 **are not permitted to bring a mobile phone or Smart Watch to school**, unless there are exceptional circumstances which must be discussed with a member of the Senior Leadership Team

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. Your children have come back to school with copious amounts of enthusiasm and enormous smiles on their faces and for that, we are so thankful. We cannot wait to spend the coming terms with them!

### **Dates for diaries:**

Secret Visit (shhhhh!) – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 7am- 6pm

Bikeability – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February

Visit to Balaji Temple – 26<sup>th</sup> January

Y4 performances – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 6pm and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 6pm- This is a ticketed event

Pioneer Centre – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May

Multiplication Tables Check begins - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June (for two weeks)

With thanks,

*Miss Banks, Mrs Stevens and Mrs Brown (Class Teachers)*

*Mrs Phillips, Mr Guyatt and Miss Taylor (Teaching Assistants)*