

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 4. We hope that you have had a relaxing summer. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your children over this first few weeks of term and have been so impressed by their fantastic behaviour and positive attitude. This letter is intended to answer some of the questions you may have at this stage of term. We will be able to expand on this information at the 'Meet the Teacher' evening on **Tuesday 21st September** from 4.00 – 5.00pm. This session will be an opportunity to meet the Year 4 teachers and to find out important information such as routines, expectations and exciting events in the year ahead. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to make an appointment via the school office if you need to see us.

Dates for Your Diary

21st September (4pm) – 'Meet the Teacher' evening
7th October – School Photographs
20th October (2.45pm) – Open Afternoon
22nd October – Inset Day
16th and 17th November – Parents' Evening
6th and 7th December – Year 4 Christmas Performance

Topics

This list is not definitive but it gives you a broad outline of the areas being addressed this term. In order to aid your child's research, our topics for the Autumn Term are:

- **English:**
 - *The Minpins* (Roald Dahl – our current topic)
 - *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers* (Mordicai Gerstein)
 - *Aesop's Fables* (Michael Morpurgo)
 - *Coming Home* (Michael Morpurgo)

Feel free to purchase a copy of these texts for your child to bring in to school, but please wait to read them until we have introduced them in class.

- **Maths:** Place Value, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division, Length and Perimeter
- **Science:** Animals including Humans (teeth and digestion)
- **History:** The Norman Conquest
- **ICT:** Introduction to Coding (using www.code.org)

A full curriculum overview of the year can be found on the Year 4 part of the Amherst School website.

Homework

Maths & English: This term the homework will alternate between Mental Arithmetic (MA) and English. Each week, homework will be given out on a **Friday**, to be returned at the latest by the following **Wednesday**. It is really important that all MA corrections be completed before starting a new test, and that all written work is completed to the high standard of presentation and content we would expect in the classroom. If you have not already done so, please cover your child's book in plastic so as to keep it in a good condition throughout the year. Information about the different homework activities can be found on the Amherst School website.

Reading: Your child should be encouraged to read for at least twenty minutes daily whether independently or with an adult. The children should record the book title and the pages read in their school 'Planner'. These books will be checked by the class teacher each week and must be in school daily.

Spelling: Your child will bring home an orange spelling homework book in which to spend 20 minutes practising Sir Linkalot, showing evidence of the spelling links in each pack. The children will then be tested on a spelling pack (20 words) each Friday morning, starting with the 'Pie Plath' pack and moving through the Sir Linkalot scheme. We will stick a note in your child's homework book each week clarifying which pack is to be tested the following week. Children unfamiliar with the spellings can then practise these at home, and those already confident with them are free to practise other packs. Sir Linkalot can be accessed through the app or website (app.sirlinkalot.org) with the following login details:

- **Username:** Amherst
- **Access code:** AAYQD8GXCL

School Equipment

- A pencil case containing: HB pencils, coloured pencils, coloured fineliners, sharpener, scissors, clear 30cm ruler (non-flexible and preferably with cm and mm), rubber (please avoid novelty/scented rubbers), black dry wipe pens and glue sticks. Stationery packs are available from the office for £12.00.
- A dictionary and thesaurus

Games and PE

Children should have their PE kit in school every day; please ensure all items are named.

- Amherst or plain navy t-shirt, shorts and white socks
- Trainers (in wet weather, you will need clean trainers or plimsoles for indoor sports)
- Swimming trunks for boys / one piece for girls; swimming hats, goggles and a towel for everyone
- **Optional:** Navy blue school sweatshirt and navy blue jogging trousers for cold weather
- **Will advise when needed:** Football/rugby boots (soft studs), shin pads and knee-high navy socks

4C	4SF	4S
Games on a Wednesday	Games on a Wednesday	Games on a Wednesday
Swimming on a Friday	Swimming on a Tuesday	Swimming on a Friday

The days for Games may swap later this term, since each class will for a time have the opportunity to work with specialist coaches.

The Year 4 staff are very much looking forward to a busy and productive year with your children.

Many thanks for your support,

Mr S. Clarke

Miss A. Smith

Miss J. Foinette/Mrs T. Siddorns