

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed the Christmas break with your families and feel rested for 2024. This letter is to give you some key information about the upcoming Spring term. Should you have any further queries, you are of course always welcome to book an appointment at the school office to see your child's teacher at any time.

January 8 th	Clubs start
February 9 th	Wear something Red with school uniform (Heart Month Fundraising)
February 9 th	End of term
February 19 th	Term 4 starts
15 th March	Open Afternoon (2.45pm)
15 th March	Clubs End
March 19 th	Parents' Evenings
March 21 st	Parents' Evenings
March 28 th	End of term
April 15 th	Term 5 starts

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 Spring term are:

- **English:**
 - *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (C.S. Lewis)
 - *The Firework Maker's Daughter* (Philip Pullman)
 - *Little Red Riding Hood* (newspaper recounts)
 - Whole-school text (to be revealed later this term)

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:** Multiplication and Division, Length & Perimeter, Fractions and Decimals
- **Science:** Electricity (circuits) and States of Matter
- **Geography:** Mountains
- **Computing:** Touch Typing (using amherstfour.typingclub.com and Spreadsheets)
- **RE:** Christianity – Why is Jesus inspiring to some people?
- **Art:** Hokusai's *Great Wave* and *Mount Fuji*
- **DT:** Electrical circuits based on lamps from *Narnia*

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

Homework

Lexia, MA and spelling homeworks will continue each week in the same fashion as last term and is summarised on the additional page at the end of this letter. Please ensure that homework is completed on time, with care and attention to detail, and that Planners are signed by an adult at home.

School Equipment

Please can you check with your child that they have all of the necessary equipment in school, including a 30cm ruler, scissors, spare glue and black dry wipe pens. This term we will start to give out 'handwriting licences' to those children who can demonstrate our school's cursive script accurately and consistently across all work. These children may bring in a fountain or handwriting pen to write in blue ink.

Games and PE

Children should have their PE kit in school every day; please ensure all items are named. You are welcome to send your child in with hats, gloves or additional layers if the weather is particularly cold.

4C	4SF	4S
Hockey on a Thursday	Hockey on a Thursday	Football on a Thursday
Yoga on a Wednesday	Yoga on a Wednesday	Yoga on a Wednesday

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

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mr S. Clarke

Miss J. Foinette/Mrs T. Siddorns

Mrs B. Stafford

Homework

Each week, homework will be given out by **Friday**, to be returned at the latest by the following **Wednesday** (apart from Planners, due on Fridays). There are four strands to the Year 4 homework:

1. Lexia

You will hopefully already be familiar with Lexia from last year. It is an online resource which supports general Literacy skills in an engaging and personalised way for each pupil. To use Lexia, your child will need access to a laptop, desktop computer or tablet for at least 20-30 minutes each week:

Personalized, targeted, and explicit instruction in all areas of reading.



- Go to www.lexiacore5.com OR install the **Lexia Core5 Reading** iPad app.
- Enter the teacher email: school@amherst.kent.sch.uk (only needed the first time you log in).
- Enter your Username and Password, which we will stick into your child's yellow Planner (the basic rule is: first name followed by two letters of surname, e.g. JohnSm for John Smith, with a password of 'school').

If there is any problem with accessing this homework on a computer each week, please do let your child's class teacher know so they can provide an alternative activity.

2. MA Books



Your child should spend around 20-30 minutes completing a page of their Mental Arithmetic (MA) book each week. It is important that MA corrections are completed before starting a new test: every mistake is an opportunity to learn! In an ideal scenario, your child would be able to complete most of the page independently and some parents will choose to go through questions with the child afterwards, helping them with any tricky ones. Please feel free to include a comment or a * next

to questions which your child has struggled with as we will try our best to help the children with these one-to-one in class.

3. 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 an adult each week and if possible should be in school daily.

4. Spelling

Your child will bring home an orange spelling homework book in which to spend about 20 minutes practising the 10 spelling words for the Weekly Spelling Test the following Friday. We will expect to see evidence of spelling practice (we will show examples of this at the Meet the Teacher event). These 10 words will be drawn from two sources:

- The spelling rule taught in class that week in our spelling lesson.

- The National Curriculum's Year 3/4 'statutory word list'.