

Dear Parents,

We hope you have had a lovely Easter holiday and that your child is enjoying being back at school. This letter summarises what we will be studying in Year 4 this term, as well as clarifying expectations for homework. We are currently organising an educational visit to Hampton Court Palace to link with our Tudors topic, and will be in touch with further information in a separate email.

Dates for your diary

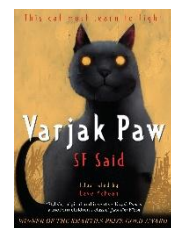
27-Apr	Clubs Start
29-Apr	Parent Coffee Morning - Resilience - 9.00am - 10.00am
18-May	Author Visit: Louise Austin (Alex Abbott is [Un]Dead)
21-May	RE Day
22-May	LAST DAY OF TERM
HALF TERM	
01-Jun	Inset Day
02-Jun	FIRST DAY OF TERM
05-Jun	Year 4 Trip - Hampton Court Palace
8-12-Jun	Amherst's Got Talent
26-Jun	Clubs End
02-Jul	New teacher - Transition morning
03-Jul	Sports Day - 1.30pm
04-Jul	PTA: Amherst Summer BBQ (3.00 - 7.00pm)
10-Jul	Summer Production - Dress Rehearsal - 1.45pm - 3.00pm
13-Jul	Summer Production - Matinee Performance - 1.45pm - 3.00pm
14-Jul	Summer Production - Evening Performance - 7.00pm - 8.15pm
15-Jul	Summer Production - Evening Performance - 7.00pm - 8.15pm
21-Jul	Rose Clifton Cricket Match
21-Jul	LAST DAY OF TERM
SUMMER	

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 are:

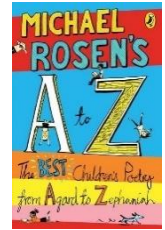
- **English:**

- *Varjak Paw* by S.F. Said:
The original book and its excellent sequel (which we will not read in class) are widely available on Amazon and in bookshops (£7.50).
- *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare:
A brilliant resource which we would recommend to every family is *The Shakespeare Stories* (£14), a set of 16 adaptations of Shakespeare's plays for children, written by Andrew Matthews and Tony Ross.



- Dragon Poetry and Information Texts:
There are many poetry books to recommend to children to get them used to poetic language and style, including:

The Works: Every Poem You Will Ever Need At School
Michael Rosen's A-Z: The best children's poetry
A Poem for Every Night of the Year



- **Maths:** Decimals, Money, Time, Shape, Statistics, Geometry
- **Science:** Living Things and Their Habitats
- **History:** Tudors
- **Computing:** Photo Editing (using the *paint.net* app) and Coding (using *www.code.org*)
- **RE:** Hinduism (What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?) and Life as a Journey
- **Art:** Tudor Portraits
- **DT:** Cooking (Healthy Muffins)

A full curriculum overview of the year can be found on the [Year 4 part of the Amherst School website](#).

Year Group 4

Amherst School
Curriculum Overview – Long Term Planning (2024-2025)

		Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12
Attains	Number	Place value				Addition and subtraction				Area	Multiplication and division A		
	Statistics	Multiplication and division B		Measurement Length and perimeter		Fractions		Decimals A					
Exceeds	Number	Decimals B		Money		Measurement Time		Measurement	Geometry Shape		Statistics Position and		
	Measurement												

Homework and Reading

Lexia, MA and spelling homework will continue each week in the same fashion as last term and are 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.

As a reminder, research suggests that **daily reading is the single most effective daily habit your child can develop** to support learning across all subjects. We encourage your child to read for at least 20 minutes every day, choosing books both for enjoyment and, over time, increasingly challenging or high-quality texts, either independently or with an adult.

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. It would be useful for them to have a spare glue stick at school as these often run out. This term we will continue 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. **All children will be able to write using a pen after half term in preparation for Year 5.**

Homework Recap

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. Children who have completed the Lexia scheme will complete a comprehension-based activity each week.



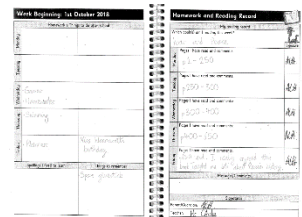
2. MA Books

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'.

Games and PE

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

4C	4SL	4HR
Athletics on a Monday	Athletics on a Thursday	Athletics on a Monday
Swimming on a Tuesday	Swimming on a Wednesday	Swimming on a Wednesday

As ever, should you have any further queries you are always welcome to book an appointment at the school office to see your child's teacher or catch us at the gate.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mr S. Clarke

Mrs G. Lester/Mrs R. Stafford

Mr S. Hafford-Robson