

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 week 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 15th September** from 4.45 – 5.30pm. 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

Please refer to our newsletter, weekly sent on Fridays, for important dates regarding trips, parent consultations, workshops, open afternoons and much more.

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:**
 - *Beowulf* (Michael Morpurgo)
 - *Little Red Riding Hood*

Feel free to purchase a copy of these texts for your child to bring in to school, but please wait until we have introduced them in class before you read them.
- **Maths:** Place Value, Addition and Subtraction, Area, Multiplication and Division
- **Science:** Animals (digestion and food)
- **History:** The Norman Conquest
- **Computing:** Computing systems and networks – The internet
- **Music:** Body percussion and tuned percussion (Rainforests)
- **Art:** Drawing Skills and Norman Shields
- **French:** Practise French sounds and spelling patterns; talk about what activities you can do (*je peux...*)

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



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.



- a) Go to www.lexiacore5.com OR install the **Lexia Core5 Reading** iPad app.
- b) Enter the teacher email: school@amherst.kent.sch.uk (only needed the first time you log in).

- c) 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.

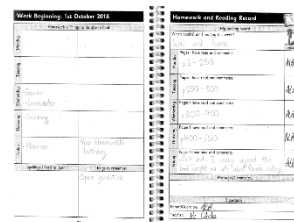
2. MA Books

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'.

School Equipment

- School are providing the stationery the children need, so they shouldn't be bringing pencil cases into school.

Games and PE

Children should come into school in their PE kits on the days they have PE; 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)
- **Optional:** Navy blue school sweatshirt and navy blue jogging trousers for cold weather
- **Will advise when needed:** Football/rugby boots (soft studs), gum shields, shin pads and knee-high navy socks

Maple	Birch	Cedar
Hockey on a Tuesday	Hockey on a Tuesday	Football on a Tuesday
Dance on a Wednesday	Dance on a Friday	Dance on a Friday

and will need gum shields and shin pads for hockey in order to take part.

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. Hafford-Robson

Mrs G. Lester/Mrs R. Stafford

Miss L. Holtshausen