

Year 4 Information for Parents

Welcome to Year 4. We hope that your child has settled in well. Below you will find details of the curriculum covered in Year 4, as well as homework and extra curricular information.

Please do ensure that your child arrives on time and that they have everything with them that they will need. It is important that all books are brought to school on a daily basis including homework diary, reading diary, homework books and spelling book. All Year 4 pupils have their own 'home folder' (plastic A4 folder) in which all books should be kept, so they are protected in their school bags.

Please do send a coat with your child everyday as we aim to be outside at break, lunch and for our daily mile. If a note is sent home that is to be returned, please return it as soon as possible. Money being sent into school should be in an envelope with your child's name and what is it for clearly on the front.

It is extremely important that all your child's belongings have their name on them.

Mathematics and Numeracy

A subject which covers many areas of study.

Processes

- Select the materials required for a task and give reasons for choices made in selecting equipment.
- Explain their work and describe the results.
- Obtain, collect and generate information.
- Record work using a given format such as a table or a graph.

Number

- Read, write and order whole numbers to at least 1000; know that the position of a digit indicates its value. For example, know that four hundred and two is written as 402 and that 4 stands for 4 hundreds, 0 stands for 0 tens and 2 stands for 2 units.
- Use and understand the conventional way of recording money e.g. know that three £1 coins plus six 1p coins is written as £3.06
- Add and subtract money expressed in conventional notation e.g.

$$\begin{array}{r} \pounds 1.30 \\ + \pounds 2.54 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

- Recognise and understand simple everyday fractions and their notation e.g. $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ etc.
- Be able to add and subtract mentally within 100
- Have quick recall and be able to use addition and subtraction number facts to 50.
- Have quick recall and be able to use multiplication facts.
- Solve problems involving multiplication or division of whole numbers or money, using a calculator where necessary e.g. find the cost of 4 books at £2.45 each.
- Approximate to the nearest 10 or 100 i.e. know that 37 can be rounded up to 40.
- Understand remainders, e.g. know that if egg boxes each hold 6 eggs, 4 boxes will be needed for 20 eggs, and if 3 boxes are filled, the fourth box will contain 2 eggs (Practical situations only).

Pattern/Relationships

- Explain number patterns and predict subsequent numbers
e.g. 5, 10, 15, 20, __, ____ etc
 $9 - 5 = 4$, $19 - 5 = 14$, $29 - 5 = 24$
- Understand whole numbers which are exactly divisible by 2, 5 and 10.
- Understand and work with simple function machines e.g.
INPUT OUTPUT
3 5 (Describe what is happening to left-hand
7 9 numbers to get numbers on right-hand
4 6 side)

Measures

- Use a wide range of metric units e.g. centimetre, kilometre, gram etc.
- Use an appropriate tape/ruler to compare lengths that cannot be put side by side.
- Read digital clocks correctly and analogue clocks to the nearest labelled division.
- Make estimates based on familiar units e.g. estimate the height of a door in metres, the capacity of a bottle in litres, or a period of time.

Shape and Space

- Recognise squares, rectangles, circles, triangles, hexagons, pentagons, cubes, cuboids, cylinder, spheres and describe them.
- Recognise right angled corners in 2-D and 3-D shapes.
- Recognise reflective symmetry in a variety of shapes in two dimensions.

- Investigate quarter turns, half turns and full turns to establish relationships with right angles - use clockwise, anti-clockwise, right and left.

Handling Data

- Extract specific pieces of information from tables and lists.
- Use a computer package to produce a variety of graphical representations.
- Record and represent data using a variety of graphs, tables and diagrams.

Mental Maths

- Carried out through daily tables and mental maths games

Language and Literacy

Talking and Listening

- Read stories and poems to the class, groups and individuals
- Become involved in drama activities
- Re-tell part of a story - discuss feelings, views and opinions.
- Listen carefully to adults - accurately follow instructions.
- Listen to other pupils and their ideas.
- Circle time activities.

Reading

- Reading groups - differentiated texts and associated activities.
- Independent silent reading.
- Class novels.
- Comprehension activities.
- Visits to Ballynahinch Library - note has been sent home with the dates of these visits
- Library van visits school every other Friday and pupils have the opportunity to select books to bring home.

Writing

During Year Four, your child will encounter many different types of writing:

- Narrative - stories (focus on planning and redrafting)
- Recounts - retelling of events, either personal, factual or imaginative.
- Procedural Writing - the way to do things, explanations, instructions *e.g. writing instructions and equipment needed for a recipe.*
- Reports - organising and recording factual information.
- Playscripts
- Persuasive Writing - trying to get a person or a group of people to

feel the same way that you do about something *e.g. through a letter or poster.*

- Explanations - explaining how or why.

Using ICT

ICT skills are increasingly important for children and adults and so many areas of the curriculum are taught using ICT. Your child will now have an afternoon class dedicated to UICT as well as having opportunities within the daily classroom setting. Across the curriculum pupils should be developing their ICT skills to Explore, Express, Exchange, Evaluate and Exhibit.

The World Around Us (includes History, Geography and Science).

With our topic work, we take a 'cross-curricular' approach i.e. we try to incorporate Numeracy, Literacy, WAU, R.E., P.E., The Art, I.C.T and Activity Based Learning.

The topics we cover this year are Autumn, Houses and Homes, World War II, Bugs, Birds and Beast and Plants.

The Arts (includes Art, Drama and Music)

The Arts are often linked to our topics. Your child will have the opportunity to use a range of materials and resources to encourage creativity! In Year 4 your child will begin to learn to play the recorder.

P.E.

Children must wear the regulation P.E. kit which should include shorts, t-shirt and non-marking trainers/P.E. slippers.

Our P.E. days are **Tuesday and Thursday.**

Throughout the year, children will engage in gymnastics, dance, games and athletics.

PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS OF PE KIT ARE CLEARLY LABELLED AND THAT YOU CHILD HAS THEIR PE KIT IN SCHOOL ON OUR PE DAYS.

R.E.

R.E. is a compulsory subject and the Programmes of Study have been devised by all the main churches and it has to be taught in all schools. We also have whole school assemblies every Wednesday morning and often guests will take these assemblies.

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

We follow the 'Living, Learning, Together' resources to teach PDMU. The areas covered in Year 4 are 'The Real Me', 'Difficult Feelings', 'Growing Means Changing', 'Friendships', 'I am... You are... We can...', 'Money Matters' and 'Who Influences Me?'

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

Throughout the curriculum we are developing pupils' thinking skills and capabilities. Thinking skills are the tools that help children go beyond the acquisition of knowledge to search for meaning, apply ideas, analyse and be more creative. These are developed under the headings:

- Thinking, Problem-solving and Decision-making
e.g. - sequencing, ordering, classifying, making comparisons;
- making links between cause and effect
- -Self-management
e.g. -being aware of personal strengths, limitations and interests;
-managing behaviour in a range of situations
- Working with others
e.g. - listening attentively and sharing opinions
- understanding how actions and words affect others
- Managing Information
e.g. - asking focused questions
- using own and others' ideas and questions
- Being Creative
e.g. - experimenting with ideas and questions
- making new connections between ideas/information

Homework

There will be four parts to your child's homework: written homework, learn spellings, learn tables and reading. Please ensure that these are completed and signed.

In Year 4 your children will receive homework on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday night. This may be a written homework, a finding out homework, a topic based homework or a learning homework.

Spellings

Along with written homework your children will be asked to learn spellings. Your child will receive spellings on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night that should be learnt for the next day. On a Thursday evening pupils will be expected to revise the whole week's spellings for our weekly spelling test.

To assist your child with learning their spellings please ensure they write them out twice in their homework diary.

Tables

A selection of number facts will be sent home each week for your child to learn. It is important that your child develops quick recall of these facts. www.topmarks.co.uk is an excellent website that we use in school to encourage quick recall of number facts, doubles and times tables. If possible, try playing "Hit the Button" at home for five minutes each night.

Written Homework

- Usually 2 Literacy and 2 Numeracy per week, sometimes topic work or project work will be included e.g. Finding out homeworks.
- Please use the check list inside the front cover of homework books
- It is important to encourage your child to always do their neatest work.
- If the work is done on a worksheet, please ensure that it is stuck into the correct place.
- Please return sheets that are not written on as they can be used again.
- Please check your child's homework and sign it but don't do it for them.
- If the homework is taking a long time or if your child appears not to understand it, just send a little note in on the incomplete homework and we will go over it again with your child in class.

Written homework should not take longer than 20 minutes.

Reading

Reading is a vital part of your child's homework. Please check your child's reading diary on a daily basis and sign the diary when the reading has been completed. Some nights your child may have pages/chapters from a book, other nights your child may have phonic sheets to read to teach new concepts in reading.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Year 4 are offered a range of extra-curricular activities. Please check notes that go home or the website to keep you up to date on what is available for your child.

Absences

Absence slips should be completed upon a child's return to school. More slips are available from school. Work is not usually sent home to unwell pupils.

Appointments

If you wish to speak to us about your child it would be greatly appreciated if you make an appointment through the office.