

## Year 4 – Curriculum Letter – Autumn 2024

Welcome to our autumn term curriculum letter! In this letter, you will find useful information relating to learning themes and special events, as well as weekly routines. We are both looking forward to an exciting term of new topics to explore and enjoy with the children. We hope you will find the information helpful so that you can support your child in their learning in year 4.

### **Important information:**

#### Clothing and Equipment

- Please can P.E. kit be in school **all week** from Monday morning. Some weeks children may need to take them home to wash on a Friday. We will begin our P.E. units this term with netball and swimming.



**Children will need to bring suitable shoes for outdoor PE (Netball on Thursdays).**

- Children should bring a change of shoes if they intend to use the field at playtime during wet weather.
- To ensure that any 'found' items return to their owners, please can you ensure that your child's P.E. kit and other clothing is clearly named.
- Swimming will be on a **Thursday morning**. (First lesson on the 19th September, when there is no swimming the children will have an additional PE lesson)

**On Thursday mornings, children will be met by staff at Westgate Leisure Centre.**

- Please can children come to school with a bottle, filled with water only. They will also need to bring in their reading folders as they will have the opportunity to read each day. Don't forget to pack an extra fruit snack to eat in the morning whilst the class story is being read.

#### Home Learning

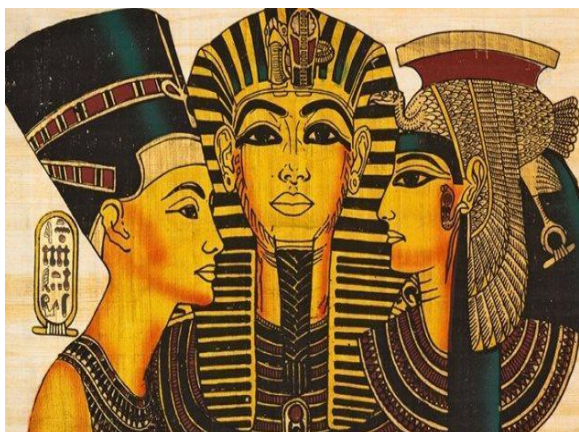
- In preparation for the government times tables test in Year 4, there will be a focus on building the rapid recall of tables. Please encourage your children to practise their times tables at home. A fun way to do this is by logging in to Times Table Rockstars ([www.ttrockstars.com](http://www.ttrockstars.com)). Regular chanting and asking quick fire questions, will also build confidence and quick recall. A table focus for each week will be included on the home learning sheet and **your child's login for Times Table Rockstars will be stuck into home learning book.**
- Home Learning is usually set on a **Friday** and should be returned to school **by the following Wednesday**. This is to ensure there is time to mark and hand it back out, ready for Friday. The weekly task will be based on class learning that week and will cover a range of subjects as the term progresses. Making time to complete home learning tasks, which are often shared in class, has many benefits.
- The children will receive a **spelling list every Friday** along with their Home Learning task. These spellings will be worked upon in early bird work and form part of the **spelling quiz on a Wednesday morning**, the children will have time to practise these spellings at home and build confidence at reading and spelling them independently. The focus will be on spelling rules and how root words change when a suffix or prefix is added. Common exception words will also be shared so they can be learnt.
- We encourage children to read as much as possible at home, as this improves all areas of learning. Reading aloud and talking about the text, looking at punctuation that has been used to guide expression and help understanding, as well as spotting spelling rules within words.

### This half term:

In the first half term we will be learning about environmental changes and their impact on the Earth. In this geographical learning theme '**Make a Change!**' We will be exploring the many environmental changes our world has faced, how these have impacted animals habitats and the different climate zones of countries and continents around the globe. Early in the topic we have an 'eco' visitor who will be leading some workshops and discussing issues with the children.



### Next half term:



We will move into the following half term by exploring our first historical learning theme of the year – '**Tomb Raiders**' where we will be exploring the achievements of the Ancient Egyptians and their lasting impact on the world. In this exciting unit, we will be investigating life in ancient Egypt, reading hieroglyphs, making our own mummies and even baking authentic Egyptian bread. We will be taste testing some Egyptian food and will even have a visit from our history expert Paul Ullson.

Last year there was a successful visit to the British Museum, we are looking into this and will share details later in the term.

### Ideas for supporting children's learning at home:

- Visiting the local library;
- Useful books to read: non-fiction texts about Ancient Egypt, climate change and exploring atlas's;
- <https://www.trockstars.com/> - This is a useful site to support your children in their times tables, ahead of this year's times tables test.
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> - This is another great website to help with times tables, which doesn't require a login.
- Reading every day with your child at home, listening and asking questions about their reading material, will really enhance their overall knowledge and understanding.

### Finally...

- We are available most afternoons to discuss any matters or questions you may have.
- Please let us know if you can help by volunteering to listen to children read, or playing games to improve table fluency – your help will always be welcomed and appreciated.

We are really looking forward to working with you and your children again and having a fantastic year.

Kind regards,  
Mrs Saunders and Mrs Potter