



Dear Parents/ Carers of Classes 4DM, 4F and 4H,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the children to an exciting year. This is the first of our Year 4 bulletins in which we aim to provide you with a brief outline of the curriculum areas covered this term.

**English:**

This term we will be linking our writing to our War topic. For the first half-term, we will be reading Michael Morpurgo's 'Friend or Foe' and focusing on descriptive writing and diary entries. In the second half of the term, we will focus on war poetry and non-fiction writing. Key grammar and punctuation skills will be taught within these lessons along with spelling lessons, handwriting and reading comprehension practice.

**Maths:**

We will be working from the National Primary Curriculum for mathematics and focusing on:

Place value

Addition and Subtraction

Multiplication and Division

Measurement: Area

In Year 4, there is a focus on reasoning, problem-solving and multiplication skills. All children will be sitting the government-set 'Multiplication Tables Check' (MTC) in the summer term. Please help your children to be as fluent as possible with these. The children will have weekly speed tests and be shown a variety of tips, tricks and online games that can aid their learning.

**Science:**

Our science topic for this half term is 'Electricity'; the children will be exploring where electricity comes from, how to make a circuit and why some materials are better conductors than others. During the second half of the term, the children will be exploring 'States of matter' where they will learn about how solids, liquids and gases change and the water cycle. The children will be involved in a range of practical and investigative activities based on these themes.

**Topic - History and Geography:**

The topic for this term is 'Sheen in the War Years', focusing on World War II (WW2) and its effect on the lives of men, women and children on both a local (Sheen) and national scale. We will be looking at themes such as evacuation, rationing and the Blitz. We teach this subject with sensitivity and consideration of the age of the children.

### **Creative Arts:**

We will be continuing our war theme in art. The children will be exploring the use of colour to achieve specific effects when sketching and painting poppies. In D&T, the children will be stitching their own poppies to wear as well as designing and making their own model Anderson shelters.

### **P.E.:**

**Children should come to school wearing their ESPS P.E. kits on Tuesdays and Fridays.**

With their class teachers, Year 4 will be working on gymnastics; children will be developing key skills to perform different movements and/or developing teamwork skills through invasion games. On a Friday, Year 4 have their NSSport lesson in the afternoon. Swimming lessons will continue in Year 4 for 10 sessions, **starting with 4F** in the autumn term. A letter to parents of 4F will be sent out with more details.

### **R.E.:**

Across this term, our RE focus will be Hinduism. The children will be exploring religious signs, symbols and the meaning of Diwali.

### **P.S.H.E.:**

In PSHE lessons, we will continue to use Jigsaw, the mindful approach to PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) which is a teaching and learning programme that includes the statutory RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education) curriculum and has a strong focus on emotional and mental health and wellbeing. This term, the children will learn about 'Being Me in My World' and 'Celebrating Difference'.

### **Computing:**

The children will participate in weekly sessions. Before half-term, children will learn to work collaboratively online in a responsible and considerate way, using a range of collaborative tools for word-processing, surveys, forms and spreadsheets. After half-term, children will learn more coding skills using Scratch.

### **Thinking Schools:**

The children will continue to use tools from their 'Thinking School' toolkit, including thinking maps, thinking hats and habits of mind. The 'Thinking School' methodologies aim to equip children with the thinking skills needed to effectively tackle problems across and beyond the curriculum, both at school and in the future, through deep and critical thinking.

### **Music (KS2):**

As well as weekly singing assemblies and regular singing in class, children will listen to, perform and explore a wide range of music. In Year 4 this term, the children will be learning about call-and-response songs, film music and composition.

### **Homework:**

**Spellings:** Spelling rules will be taught every **Thursday**, and we will test the children the following **Thursday**. At the start of every half term, we will share a list of the spelling words, and this also can be found on the [school website](#). To help prepare for their tests we will set a weekly [SpellingShed.co.uk](#) activity.

**Mathletics:** Homework will be uploaded on a **Thursday** and should be completed by the following **Thursday**. Please speak to your class teacher if you have any trouble accessing it. The homework will be linked to what the children have been learning in class that week.

**Times tables:** In Year 4, the children will be required to know all the times table facts up to 12 x 12. Please help your child to become fluent with these and ensure they are able to answer questions out of order. Please practise weekly using <https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check> and with [Percy Parker songs](#)

**Reading:** We encourage the children to read for 20 minutes minimum every day at home, both independently and, where possible, to an adult. Five entries are expected per week in their diary and the children are encouraged to make a comment on what they have read. Children have the opportunity to do a quiz every morning on the books they have read on [Renaissance Reading](#) to earn word points. Quizzes can also be accessed from home using the home connect link found in their reading diary.

**Some Key Dates:** Details to follow on all trips

**15<sup>th</sup> September:** Swimming starts 4F - 10 sessions

**17<sup>th</sup> September:** Parents Curriculum Meeting at 3.30pm in 4F - all parents are welcome.

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October:** 4F Wetlands Water Cycle Workshop

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October:** 4DM Wetlands Water Cycle Workshop

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October:** 4H Wetlands Water Cycle Workshop

**11<sup>th</sup> November 9:10am:** The Year 4 WW2 assembly to parents - we ask for children to wear clothes linked with the war years (eg: 1940s).

**17<sup>th</sup> (5H) and 25<sup>th</sup> November (4F and 4DM)** - St Leonards Court Air Raid Shelter visit.

Kindest regards,

Miss Louise Devlin, Miss Jade Fuller, Ms. Sarah Hutchings and Miss Ali May.

# YEAR 4

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|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MONDAY    | ✓ Reading book and diary to be brought into school                                                                       |
| TUESDAY   | ✓ Reading diary to be brought into school<br>✓ Swimming Kit (4F class only)<br>✓ PE kit to be worn to school             |
| WEDNESDAY | ✓ Reading diary to be brought into school                                                                                |
| THURSDAY  | ✓ Reading diary to be brought into school<br>✓ Mathletics homework is set and due<br>✓ Timetable test<br>✓ Spelling test |
| FRIDAY    | ✓ Reading diary to be brought into school<br>✓ PE kit to be worn to school<br>✓ KS2 Library visit                        |