

Well, the first week has been and gone. I hope that you and your family have settled back into the school routine and I wanted to thank you all for your patience with regards to dropping off and collecting.

Mrs Ryder included all the general 'need to knows' in her first newsletter of the year so the purpose of this, is to let you know what is going on in Class 4 this term. If there is anything you would like to know that is not included, please do not hesitate to email me with your questions: karen.barlow@thelink.academy.

Class 4 is all about getting ready for the big transition ahead - developing skills and independence. There will be lots of work and high (but realistic) expectations but also fun along the way!



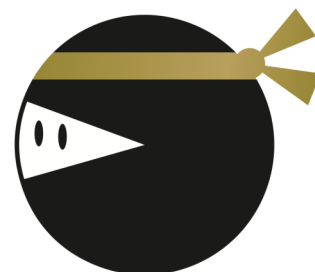
To enable us to recover lost teaching and learning time in the core subjects, our curriculum has been adjusted for the Autumn term. We will be spending the first two weeks of term focusing on the wellbeing and support for all children. We feel it is important for the children to re-connect with the school routines, rules, behaviour and learning expectations as well as re-connecting as a whole school community and re-establishing friendships. Across the school, children will be engaged in a two week unit of work called Here We Are. This is a literacy-based unit that has been devised specifically for a whole school to work together, using a single text to support a transition curriculum as children return to school. It aims to support reading and writing for pleasure across the school.



Our Recovery Curriculum plan is on the school website if you would like to take a look. It details how we will build up to a full, broad and balanced curriculum.

Throughout the Autumn term, we will spend a lot of time on PSHE covering topics such as friendships, what it means to be an effective learner, growth mindset and healthy lifestyles and with that in mind, we would like to encourage all children to bring in healthy snacks for playtime. It is also important that they have a water bottle in school every day to keep hydrated.

During the first term, we will spend some time going over previous year group objectives in spelling, grammar and maths to make sure all children are secure before moving on. We have included short focussed daily sessions in our timetable for this and for arithmetic, we will be introducing Numeracy Ninjas. This is a daily five minute intervention designed to fill gaps in basic mental calculation strategies. With the opportunity to earn different coloured ninja belts, we hope the children will gain/maintain a positive attitude towards maths and take pride in their efforts and achievements.



Homework

The majority of the homework that we will set this term is based online. If your child does not have access to any devices, please let me know and I will make alternative arrangements. Homework will be set on a Wednesday and needs to be completed by Monday.

The spelling and times tables platforms are game based and the children will be able to compete against others in their class/school. With Times Tables Rock Stars, the more they play, the greater their Rock Star Status will be - I anticipate having a class full of Rock Legends by the end of the summer! MyMaths also offers lessons that the children can access if they need any extra help with a particular topic.

As mentioned in Mrs Ryder's newsletter, we will have Mr Tanner in this term on a Thursday so children will need to come into school in their PE kit. PE may be inside or outside (depending on the weather) so please make sure your child is prepared for both i.e. shorts under jogging bottoms, warm jumpers and a lightweight waterproof jacket.



Our Wild Woodland Learning sessions will take place on a Monday for the first half term so again, children will need to come in to school dressed appropriately. Any additional waterproofs and wellies can be put in their lockers during the day.

We also have 15 minutes of Daily Physical Exercise (DPA) which may involve a quick jog round the playground, team games or other brains breaks to break up the indoor sessions.



After children's prolonged absence from school, reading has never been more important than it is now as part of the recovery curriculum.

Reading is not simply the ability to read words from a page, it is the understanding and comprehension of what has been read whether explicitly stated or inferred. To understand a book, at times a child needs to become a detective searching for clues and interpreting these. Children need to learn how to read strategically building upon a range of skills; skimming, scanning, summarising, inference, prediction, explaining, asking questions – to name a few.

Reading not only opens up a world of enjoyment of reading for pleasure but is also a vital tool to access information across the curriculum and beyond. The more you read, the more you know, the more you want to know, and the wider and richer your vocabulary becomes.

Reading has a high profile in Class 4 and we support this through individual reading using our Accelerated Reader (AR) scheme, small group and 1:1 guided reading sessions where the support offered can be more personalised and a whole class guided reading session which exposes children to a wide range of texts, genres and inspiration. Once our AR scheme is up and running, we will also introduce the AR Challenge where the children have to see how long it takes for them, as a class, to read 1,000,000 words! We encourage the children to take their AR books home but it is important that they bring it back to school every day for our reading sessions. When the children have finished their books, they are quarantined for 72 hours before being returned to the library.

To support the development of reading and vocabulary at home, it would be great if you could listen to your child read regularly and discuss books they have read at home or experienced at school. Questioning is the key to deepening their learning and understanding such as: What do you think this book is about? What do you think will happen? Tell me about what has happened so far? Tell me some facts you have found out. What was your favourite?

If your child encounters new vocabulary, ask them what they think it might mean and if it doesn't disrupt the flow of reading, look it up together in a dictionary. All children in Class 4 have been given an ambitious vocabulary bookmark to use as they are reading to jot down words they either don't know the meaning of or words that they might like to use in their writing. Our English sequences will promote 'thesaurus thinking' and 'shades of meaning' to encourage the children to think of alternatives and the positive and negative intent of words to further broaden their vocabulary.



Due to the changes in our curriculum, we will not have a topic that runs for the whole term however, we will be collapsing the timetable before half term to focus on what would have been our theme relating to World War I and II.

Collective worship will take place in class this term and will focus on the exploration of themes such as new beginnings, friendship and managing worries which supports our recovery curriculum.



New values are introduced every two weeks and a home school values sheet will be included with Mrs Ryders newsletter. It has lots of ideas to help you explore the value with your child at home and have some fun along the way.

I hope that this newsletter answers all your questions about being in Class 4 and that the feedback you have had from your child this week has been positive.

If you, or they, have a question that has not been answered, please drop me an email or catch me at the end of the day during pick up.

We look forward to working with you and your children this year.

**Miss Barlow, Mrs Ryder
Mrs Redmayne & Mrs Monroe**