



Spring 1 Newsletter

We hope you had a relaxing Christmas break and wish you a very happy New Year 2025!

It's going to be an active half-term. On Monday, the children will be doing Forest Schools with Mr Bamford (they should come to school dressed accordingly, bringing appropriate shoes and outer wear to change into for afternoon sessions), on Tuesday children will be taught Dance by the Derby School Sports Partnership and Mrs Ringer will be taking Year 4 swimming on a Thursday.

Please ensure you bring a labelled water bottle, freshly filled each day to stay hydrated whilst in school. You are welcome to bring your own fruit into school for a playtime snack. This should be left in your school bag in the cloakroom. You can bring an appropriately sized pencil case to keep at school. Please ensure that the equipment inside is functional rather than toy like- this can be a distraction in class.

For *statutory homework*, please concentrate on:

- Practise times tables at home. Children need to know all the multiplication and division facts up to 12x12 by May 2024. The TT Rockstars platform is available to practise timetable skills. Passwords can be found in reading diaries.
- Read at least four times a week. This should be recorded in home reading diaries and will be monitored by class teachers and teaching assistants. Your support with hearing your children read is invaluable and makes a huge difference to their love of learning and access to the curriculum.
- Spellings will be handed out on a Monday, should be learnt at home, and then tested in school the following Monday morning.

Look at the **Homework menu** for this half-term for *additional* homework activities, linked to our learning in class, should you wish to participate.

Children should bring their reading book to school every day, as we often have whole class reading or one to one reading with an adult. Children can now change and choose their own books; this is however monitored in class to ensure that each child reads often and reads from a wide range of genre. A weekly newsletter on Parent Hub will summarise our learning each week and deliver key messages. If you require any further information don't hesitate to catch us at the end of the school day at the cloakroom door or via the school office.

Mrs Smith and Mrs Ringer.

Maths: Multiplication and Division 2 Factor pairs, multiply and divide by 10 and 100, multiply and divide 2digit and 3digit numbers by 1digit numbers, correspondence and problem solving. **Area and Length**

Times tables continue to be crucial for understanding and by the end of Year 4 they will be tested on all multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12. Your support at home will make a huge difference.

Computing: We will follow the Purple Mash scheme of work and cover 'Coding'.

PE: Derby County SSP Dance lessons will be on Tuesday afternoons. Mrs Ringer will be teaching children swimming on a Thursday afternoon.
Mr Bamford will be taking Forest Schools on a Monday afternoon.

RE: Just how important are our beliefs? We will be learning about baby naming ceremonies, commitment ceremonies, why people might eat certain foods and give time and money because of their beliefs.

French: We will be learning to speak and write French. Our new topic is 'In Class'.

Science: This half-term we focus on 'Scientists and Inventors'. Gerald Durrell, conservation in Madagascar, Alexander Graham Bell, invention of the telephone, M. Telkes & E. Raymond, early use of solar energy in the home, G. Morgan, electrical circuits, Thomas Edison's work on electricity and about the discovery of oxygen.

Year 4

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PSHE: 'Changes' We will discuss change and loss, and how these affect our feelings, thoughts and behaviours. We will recognise that feelings can change over time.

Library is on Monday morning at breaktime, every fortnight.

English: We will finish our unit on Aladdin, started before the holiday first.

Then a poem '**The River**' by Valerie Bloom. This fits in very well with our geography topic this half-term.

Our second text is a biography, '**A life electric. The story of Nikola Tesla**' by Azadeh Westergaard.

In whole class reading we will be working together to analyse and understand texts to ensure good **comprehension** and develop pace and fluency.

We continue to develop neat, legible, and joined up handwriting in all lessons and focus on spelling, punctuation, and grammar skills.

Art: Drawing and Pattern. Using pencil tones to create 3d effects, use charcoal and rubber to show areas of light and dark, cut with care and purpose and to create composition, scratch into a painted surface.

Geography: Our topic is 'Rivers'. We will look at changes of state of water in the context of the water cycle. Learn about making clouds and rain, about pollution and how to treat water and about flooding.

Music: Class 4 will learn to play a violin or cello with the Wider Opportunities String Instrument Team. Our theme is 'Listening'.