

Welcome to Year 4

General

This leaflet is designed to give you a brief overview of your child's school life over the coming year in terms of our expectations, as well as providing you some insight into the topics we intend to cover. There are two formal parents' evenings in the year, but if at any other time you need a chat with the teacher, please let us know and we can make an appointment for a time that suits us both. Puffins and Curlews classes are taught by Mr Green and Mr Poole, ably assisted by Mrs Payne and Mrs Dumbiotis.



English

English is taught for at least one hour a day with extra time dedicated to reading, spelling and handwriting. The children will explore a wide range of text types during the year and their reading and writing skills will be developed and extended through these text types. The children will have a levelled book from the Accelerated Reader scheme. Once they have read their book, they can do a quiz during school time to check their understanding of what they have read.

- If they achieve 100% in a quiz, then they move up to the next level
- If they achieve 80-99%, then they stay on the same level
- If they achieve 79% or below then they move down a level

The children will read regularly in school, but will not necessarily read individually with an adult on a daily basis. We appreciate your support in ensuring that the children practise reading at home on a regular basis, whether they read to you or on their own. We ask that they record their reading in the home-school diaries. Please feel free to use their diaries to record any comments you may have and remind your child to give their diary to their teacher when they come into school.

Big Writing takes place on every second week and is the culmination of 2 weeks' work on a specific genre of writing. The children will prepare for the task in school during the weeks, but may wish to talk through their ideas with you or find some extra information at home.

Spellings for each week are introduced on a Monday. Some will follow a pattern which will be explored during the week with investigations and taught phonic sessions; others will be key words from the year 3/4 spelling list. **They will be tested on a Monday.** Attached is a copy of the spelling list, which the children are expected to learn by the end of their time in year 3 and 4.



Maths

Maths is also taught daily. Our aim is to ensure that the children are confident handling numbers and completing calculations and that they progress to the next step only when their understanding of the current step is completely secure. They may use strategies that are unfamiliar to you and if you are ever unsure or want further clarification about the methods they are using, please don't hesitate to see your child's teacher.

In school, they will develop their skills through a mixture of activities, including formal written lessons, investigations, practical activities and games.

Continued practice of the multiplication tables at home is very much appreciated; **all children are expected to know their tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4.** The children take a weekly times tables test to ensure progress and confidence in their times tables. Children can use Times Tables rock stars to help practise and check their progress.

Topic Work

In the creative curriculum we will be covering many different topics and the titles are:
The Northern Lights, Waterworld, Minecraft, How to Train your Dragon,
Ivybridge: Our Town and The Scarab's secret

Through these topics we will cover Science, Geography, History, Art and D.T.
In addition, the children will be taught Computing, French, RE, PHSE, Games, PE,
Wild Tribe forest school activities and Music.

Timetable Commitments:

PE: Wednesday and Friday - The children can come into school on these days wearing their PE kits.

Wild Tribe : Wednesday - please ensure that they have a pair of wellies (or outdoor dirty shoes) named and in a bag. A pair over waterproof over-trousers is also advisable.

P.E. Kit

For P.E. the children should wear black shorts and a white T-shirt. Each child also needs a pair of trainers, socks, and a marked bag in which these may be kept. For outdoor games children may bring a tracksuit to wear in cold weather. All kit should be clearly named. **Please note there is a sanction system in place for children who regularly forget their kit.** Earrings are not allowed during PE lessons and children are encouraged to look after them. Please supply tracksuit bottoms and a warm top for outdoor PE lessons.



Homework

Homework is set on Wednesdays and due in the following Monday. Each task should take no more than 20 minutes. If it is taking your child more than this time, please stop them and make a note in their homework book. We are always available at lunchtimes to help your child with any aspects of their homework, that they need support with. Homework can be completed in books or digitally and emailed to us: please use the school admin email address: admin@stowford.devon.sch.uk. If homework is not handed in on Monday, there may not be time to mark it.



Media

If you do not wish your child's photo to be published, either in the papers or on the blog, please let your class teacher or the office know in writing. Thank you.

Clubs

Throughout the year, we encourage the children to participate in a **wide range of clubs** either during lunchtimes or after school. Look out for a list of clubs available in the second week of the first term.

We hope that the children make a great start to **Year 4** and settle in well. We are looking forward to an exciting and productive year! If you do have any further questions, then please don't hesitate to come in and see us.

Many thanks,
Mr Green and Mr Poole.