

Welcome to Year 4 – Puffins & Curlews

General

Mr Jackson and Mr Green would like to welcome you to the 2022 - 2023 academic year. 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 with some insight into the topics we will 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.

English

As in previous years, English is taught for 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 also be developed and extended through their topics. The children will read in school, but not necessarily on an individual basis. We would appreciate your support in ensuring that the children practise reading at home on a regular basis, on their own, with their parent and out loud when they can. They can record books they have read in their home-school diaries. We would hope that they can build their stamina for reading by the end of the year to 20 -25 minutes sustained reading. 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 in to school.



Spellings will be taught differently this year and they will follow a more explorative nature where the children will build their investigative skills and apply their knowledge of learnt words. There will not be any spellings coming home other than the Year 3/4 statutory words.

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 often use strategies that are unfamiliar to you. If you are ever unsure or want further clarification about the methods they are using, please don't hesitate to see us.

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

In their homework they may be given a main maths activity with an option to extend this. This echoes the class structure where, in a lesson, children will select a bronze or silver activity as their starting point and then progress to a gold challenge when they feel ready. By the end of Year 4 they are expected to be able to recall, at speed, their times tables up to 12x12. There is a large selection of maths games online that support learning in maths, in particular those that improve children's mental speed. 'Hit the Button' and 'Times Table Rock Stars' are just two that we recommend. There is also a great website, www.timestables.co.uk which is progressive and easy to use and at the end there is a section which emulates the Year 4 Multiplication Check Test.



Topic Work

Our topics will include : "The Northern Lights", "Rhythm of the Rain", "The Island", "How to Train your Dragon", "The Railway Children" and "The Scarab's secret". Through these topics we will cover: Science, Geography, History, Art & D.T., Computing, RE, PE, MFL and Music.



Timetable Commitments:

Swimming - Summer term
PE

Curlews and Puffins: Wednesday & Thursday



P.E. Kit

Children should come to school in their PE kit on the nominated PE day.

For P.E. the children should wear black shorts and a white T-shirt and trainers.

For outdoor games children may bring a tracksuit to wear in cold weather. All kit should be clearly named. Earrings are not allowed during PE lessons and children are encouraged to look after them and are encouraged to leave them at home on PE days.

Homework

Homework is set on Dojo on a Wednesday and is due in the following Monday. Each task should take no more than 10 - 15 minutes. If it is taking your child more than this time please stop them and send a message via Dojo. Homework can be submitted to Dojo via their portfolio. If homework is not handed in by Monday, there may not be time to mark it. If homework is not completed your child may be invited to join the homework club.

Media

We have a very high media profile but if you do not wish your child's photo to be published, either in the papers, on Dojo or web site, please let your class teacher or the office know in writing. Alternatively the consent form can be found on the school website. We take the children's safety very seriously at Stowford and appreciate your support at home to ensure that



Clubs

Throughout the year, we encourage the children to participate in a **wide range of clubs** after school and it's important that once a child has signed up to a club, they continue it for the duration of the club.

We hope that the children make a great start to **Year 4** and settle in well and 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 Jackson and Mr Green.

Spelling and Times Tables in Year 4 2022/2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

We will be teaching spelling differently this year to the way we have done in previous years. Spelling lessons will have a more investigative, enquiry-based element to them. Also, there will not be any weekly spellings to learn. However, today we have given the children in Year 4 the Year 3/4 statutory word list. This is a list of common words that children in Year 3 and 4 are expected to spell. They are words that don't necessarily follow the rules and patterns of other words in the English language and so we teach them differently. For example, we may look at the root word, make up a story about the word, look at the shape it makes and associate it to the word, or create a funny way of remembering it. We look at the sounds or parts of the word that are tricky and pay attention to that. By the end of Year 4, children are expected to have learnt all of these words and will be tested on them. Please could you help your child by looking at these words closely, paying particular attention to the tricky part or sound.



We are also going to be going through the times tables as this again is something that the children in Year 4 must know and be able to recall (at speed). Again there is a statutory Multiplication Check test at the end of Year 4 where there are 25 random times tables to attempt in 6 seconds per question.

We will teach the times tables in the classroom throughout the Autumn term and there will be lots of opportunity for the children to practise them again in the Summer term. We will also keep refreshing the children during the Spring Term. We recommend "Hit the Button" which is a great free online app as well as "Times Tables Rock Stars". Another great online programme is www.timestables.co.uk which is a progressive app designed to help children build their skills. It also has a section which emulates the government Multiplication Check Test that they will be doing in the Summer term (June).

www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents

We will start with the 2 times tables and then progress through: 5x, 10x, 3x, 4x, 8x, 11x, 12x, 9x, 6x and finally 7x. Children will be expected to be able to recall them at speed and not rely on counting on their fingers.

Please could you support your child in their learning of the times tables? If they are confident in basic recall eg $3 \times 4 = ?$, you can always turn these into a division eg $12 / 4 = ?$ etc. as this is a really good way to consolidate learning.

Please feel free to come and speak to either of us about spellings and times tables and any issues that you may have so that we can find a way to best support you at home.

Many thanks.

Mr Green and Mr Jackson