



Through God, We
Love, Laugh and
Learn.

ST. MICHAEL'S CE (VC) FIRST SCHOOL

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10th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Year 4 2020/21

Welcome to Year 4. Whether you are returning to school after the summer holidays or are new to our school, we want to make sure that you have all of the relevant information that you need to know, so that your child can have a smooth start to the academic year. This is a very important year for the children as it is their final year at First School, and we will be working to prepare them for the transition to the Middle School stage of their education.

Teaching Team

We have 2 classes in Year 4:

- 4GW – Mrs Gardiner and Miss Whitney (Mrs Gardiner- Mon-Wed, Miss Whitney Thurs-Fri)
- 4P – Mr Priestley

What to Bring to School Each Day

All children should come to school in school uniform and should pack a drink bottle (containing water only). Please make sure all personal items are labelled with your child's name. Year 4 will also need to bring their reading book into school on a Tuesday to change their books. Please do not bring books into school on any other day as the children will be provided with books for reading in school.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the pupils should be wearing proper school shoes, not trainers during the school day. We do encourage the children to wear a wrist watch, as this helps with the teaching of time and is good preparation for middle school. Any hair accessories must be school colours (blue/white).

Topics

We have a number of topics planned for this academic year, beginning with our first topic that focuses upon the subject of the Vikings and the book "How to Train Your Dragon". Children will learn about the history of the Vikings and will explore the text of "How to train your Dragon" through their English lessons.

We would be grateful if you could support your child's learning by discussing with them what they have learnt in school.

Physical Education

Year 4 will have PE on a Thursday, we are asking children to come to school on this day already wearing their outdoor PE kit. PE kit for all children is as follows:

- Plain white t-shirt (not a polo shirt)
- Plain black shorts
- Trainers
- A black or navy tracksuit for outdoor games



Earrings cannot be worn during PE and must be removed by the child. If your child cannot remove their earrings, then they should not be worn on PE days. Hair that is longer than shoulder length must also be tied back for PE lessons.

During the summer term we will be having swimming lessons as part of our PE provision. Letters detailing the arrangements will be sent closer to the time.

Home Learning

As a school we believe that family time is extremely important and that onerous amounts of homework impact negatively upon this time. We do however recognise that it is important to prepare the pupils for the move to Middle School, where there is an expectation for them to complete homework on a regular basis.

Reading – Daily reading with your child is vital for them to make the expected level of progress, both with their reading fluency and comprehension skills. You will have received a list of questions that you may wish to ask your child whilst hearing them read.

Multiplication Tables – The government expect all children to be able to recall their multiplication tables up to 12x12 by the end of their time in Year 4. As well as being critical for everyday life, knowledge of multiplication tables helps children to solve problems quickly and flexibly, and allows them to tackle more complex mathematics later on in school. **These will be tested through the Year 4 National Multiplication check for the first time during the summer term.** We will be providing details regarding the check that you child must complete in due course. To help your child learn their tables at home we have continued to provide access to TT Rockstar. This site has proven to be particularly popular with pupils and has been very effective at helping them improve their multiplication tables recall. The site provides an excellent platform to prepare for the multiplication check.

We will also be completing weekly times table tests, more information about this will follow. Children will be set times table to learn for that week as part of their homework.

Spelling - The spelling patterns information sheet detailing the patterns that we will be working on will be sent home each term, so that you can practice using the rules with your child.

Online Activities – There will be optional online games on the EducationCity Site that you can complete with your child to support learning that has taken place in class.

Project Work – From time to time we will set longer project-based tasks that will involve the children producing a piece of work linked to what we have been learning about in class. There will be a greater emphasis on this aspect of homework during the summer term, when the children are preparing for Middle School.

Communication

If you have any queries or concerns about your child then we ask you to please contact the office, either via email or telephone and a message will be passed on to your child's class teacher, who may wish to contact you directly.

Transition to Middle School

Whilst September 2021 may seem a long way off it will soon be time to begin the important process of applying for a Middle School place for your child. Details of the application process will be provided to you at the appropriate time; however key dates for the application process are outlined below:

- Applications Open – 1 November 2020
- Applications Close – 15 January 2021
- Offer Day – 16 April 2021

We are looking forward to a very busy year ahead. Please contact us if you have any further questions regarding your child's time in Year 4.

Mrs L Gardiner, Miss A Whitney and Mr J Priestley
Year 4 Class Teachers

