

WELCOME

to Year 3 & 4

Happy Holidays Everyone!

I hope you all have a fantastic time during the summer, rest, relax and enjoy the time you spend with your family.

I look forward to seeing you in September, when we can share our memories.

Mrs Cliffe

Reading



As the children begin their journey in the Juniors we aim for them to become confident and fluent readers, with a love of books and a thirst for knowledge. The children will read a wide variety of literature including, picture books, information books, poetry and plays plus the core reading schemes to ensure progression and the learning of key skills.

The children will have a Class Read every day so they have the opportunity to relax and enjoy a book being read to them.

In Year 3 and 4, we strengthen their comprehension skills and help them 'dig' deeper into their books and look for a more complex understanding.

How can you help at home?

Good readers read at home and a good home/school partnership is crucial to developing secure readers. We actively encourage the involvement of parents in working with us, as the children develop their reading expertise. Don't forget reading is all around us - shop signs, magazines, internet, cereal packets or road signs. Visits to your local library are encouraged too.

The children will be encouraged to be responsible for changing their own books and they will be given the time to do this every day after lunch.

READING AT HOME WITH YOUR CHILD IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO TO IMPROVE THEIR READING.

5 STEPS TO READING WITH YOUR CHILD

1. Find somewhere comfortable and quiet to read.
2. Start by asking them about the book so far, or why they chose it?
3. Let them read a few pages and ask them questions about it as you go.
4. Help them read tricky words by looking at the sounds the words make and blending them together. Try not to just tell them the word. Discuss the meaning of unfamiliar words.
5. Ask them some more questions at the end of a good 10minute read.

In Year 3 and 4 we have a strong focus on developing comprehension skills. Here are some examples of questions to ask your child to help with this. They get progressively harder.

What has happened so far? Can you retell the story?

What do you think will happen next?

Which character has got . . .? Where is . . .? What are they doing . . .? Why did the character behave like that? What words would you use to describe the character? What other characters do you know that have also done that?

Can you think of other words for . . .? What does . . . mean? Why did the author use those words?

What did you think of the book? Why?

All the time asking the children for evidence from the text, prove your answer.

Writing

We encourage the children to become independent writers. As well as teaching handwriting, grammar and punctuation the children are taught spelling strategies too.



How can you help at home?

The key to good writing is having a rich language to draw from. Reading to your child and giving them a broad range of experiences are the best support you can give to help develop their imagination and writing style. Sometimes writing opportunities crop up simply through everyday events, such as writing shopping lists or the dreaded thank you letters. It is best not to force writing at home in any formal sense but look for opportunities to allow your child to show off their knowledge creatively.

...but what about spellings?

Don't worry about correcting spellings in their writing at home too much. If simple words are spelt incorrectly then point it out but the important thing is for your child to enjoy their writing at home. Year 3 and 4 will be sent home spellings each week to learn, we ask parents/carers to help with this.

Spellings will be given out on a **Friday** to be tested the following **Friday**.



Maths

This year we are using Power Maths, a mastery approach to mathematics. The old national curriculum, measured in terms of levels. Children were often accelerated onto more complex concepts before mastering the earlier ones. The new national curriculum encourages the study of fewer skills in a greater depth in order to achieve mastery – deeper thinking not harder sums! The key is to develop the children's confidence in mathematical thinking. Year 4's this year will undertake the Multiplication assessments in spring 2020. We will support their development of their times tables in school but practice at home will be vital to ensure the children are able to answer the questions confidently within the allotted time (6 seconds).

Times tables tests will be on a **Friday**.



Trips

We will be inviting experts into school as well as enjoying a trip to Brockholes and an overnight residential for year 4 in the summer term to the Anderton Centre.

Brockholes **13th November** costing **£18** per child

Anderton Centre **2nd and 3rd of July** (1 overnight stay, 2 full days of activities) costing **£95** per child -**YEAR 4 ONLY**

Payments plans will be set up in September.

We also plan to spend time in our local environment, going on walks and investigating the local heritage.

Staffing

Mrs Cliffe – Class Teacher

Mrs Hitchen – TA

Mrs Hodgkinson – TA

Mrs Whittaker – SENCO/PPA

Show and Tell will be included in the school day at a time suitable. We encourage the children to show (or tell) some unusual news or achievement, rather than a toy from home!

Class News

Each half term you will receive a class news. This will inform you of the topics we will be covering and ways to support and encourage your child. These will also be made available on the school website, under our class page.

Other Reminders

Please remember to **label** your child's uniform.

Our PE days are Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please bring this in a small draw string bag – we don't have room for ruck sacks unfortunately.

Swimming will begin later in the school year, more details nearer the time.

Messages can be put in the planners where they will be checked and acted upon on a daily basis.

If there is anything urgent that you need to see a member of staff about, please do not hesitate to call or make an appointment.

Your child will need to bring in their own healthy snack each day for playtime eg. some fruit of vegetables or a non-chocolate based cereal bar. Please ensure the children have a named water bottle in school – we are trying to reduce the use of disposable bottles.

At a Glance...

<i>Reading books</i>	<i>Everyday</i>
<i>Planners</i>	<i>Every day</i>
<i>PE kit</i>	<i>Tuesday and Thursday</i>
<i>Spellings</i>	<i>Sent home on a Friday, tested the Friday after.</i>
<i>Times tables</i>	<i>Test on a Friday</i>
<i>Homework</i>	<i>Sent out on a Friday, to be in the Friday after.</i>