



Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you have had a fantastic summer holiday ready for an exciting academic year in Year 4. Our value for this term is Thankfulness and we begin the year with a whole-school topic, 'Life in all its Fullness.' Our English lessons will focus on the Charlie Macksey book 'The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse'. The children will work on descriptive writing, as well as how to plan and edit their written work and use a dictionary and thesaurus effectively. In Maths, we will be focusing on Place Value and Addition & Subtraction. Our topic work will focus on the Geography and History of Ashton Keynes. In Science we will study areas of the Year 3 curriculum that the children didn't cover in the Summer term.

Miss Harrold is our class Teaching Assistant, who will be in class every morning and she already knows the children exceptionally well. Mr Tanner will be teaching PE on Tuesday afternoons and Mrs Voss will be teaching Art on Wednesday afternoons.

As it may be tricky to speak at the start or end of the school day, if you wish to contact me please do so via d.hockaday@ashtonkeynes.wilts.sch.uk and I will reply to you as soon as I can. Thank you!

Home Learning

Next week, you will receive a Home Learning brochure with English tasks until half term. These tasks will also be posted on Showbie (the KS2 learning platform) and responses should be posted online. Maths tasks will be set each week, linked to our learning in school and will be sent home in a Maths Home Learning book. We will talk through the tasks with the children in school on **Thursdays**. Please submit English homework on Showbie by **Tuesday morning** and bring Maths books into school on **Tuesdays** to allow time for us to respond with feedback. If you have not yet received your login for Showbie, please email us.

Spellings

We will be testing children on weekly spellings every **Friday**. The spellings will be posted on Showbie each week and will be linked to Y3 and Y4 spelling patterns.

Reading

We will be checking children's reading records every morning when they arrive at school. Our expectation is that children read a small amount each day: 15-20 minutes is fine. Even if your child is already a free reader, it is really beneficial for them to read to an adult to support with unknown vocabulary and discuss what's happened in the text. We expect every child to record their daily reading, even if it's just a short note, so that we can keep track of their progress. Please support them in completing this task each day – thank you.

Cracking Times Tables

We will be continuing with Cracking Times Tables and the children will be tested in school every Friday. To further support your child, you can use the website www.timestables.com to learn the facts and **Times Tables Rock Stars** to practise multiplication and division facts with your child. As you are aware, the children will sit the Multiplication Tables Check towards the end of the school year so it is vital your child practises their times tables as much as possible before then.

General Reminders

PE: For the Autumn term, PE will be on **Tuesday afternoons**. Children will need to bring them in on these days only and will be expected to take them home on the same day.

Forest School sessions: Wednesday 16th September, Wednesday 7th October, Wednesday 11th November and Wednesday 2nd December.

Please add these dates to your calendar so your child remembers their kit! 😊

Mr Hockaday