ASHTON KEYNES
Church of England VC Primary School
SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS

Class 4 Newsletter
Autumn Term 2026

Dear children, parents and carers,

We hope that you have had the best Summer and have enjoyed spending time with your families.

The Year 4 Team:
Miss Usher will teach the class on **Monday and Tuesday** and **Miss Redman** will teach Maths on Tuesday morning (9.30-10.30) and from **Wednesday to Friday**.
Mrs Thomas and Miss Davis (now Mrs Underwood!) will be supporting children in Class 4 in the mornings and Miss Hamilton-Gill and Ms Hunt will be supporting children on a 1:1 basis in the afternoons.

Learning:
Our values for this term are: **Thankfulness** in term 1 and **Trust** in term 2.

We start the term with our learning metaphor, which is **difference**. Children will explore this theme in the first week back.

Our **English** lessons will have a focus on simple grammatical features and handwriting. Our first core text will be ***'Arthur and the Golden* Rope'** and we will be creating newspapers, diaries and comics, amongst other forms.
In **maths**, we'll be focusing on our number skills: place value, addition and subtraction and multiplication and division. We'll be working on formal calculation methods we use, so lots of practice with these at home would be excellent! There will also be a focus on times tables: recapping 2s, 5s, 10s, 3s and 4s, and then onto 6s and 8s.
History will take us to the time of the Romans, where we will explore what life was like, and how they impacted our locality. In **science**, we are grouping and classifying living things, as well as looking at states of matter: gases, liquids, solids. Our **computing** topics are about systems and networks and then creating media. **Music** in both terms will see us start to learn the ukuleles. **Art** this term will be delivered by Mrs Dyminski: the children will have 2 days (Thurs 19th & Fri 20th November). We look forward to seeing their stunning creations. In our **R.E** lessons, we will be focusing on Judaism and understanding how people of this faith worship. Finally, we will be learning phonetics and presenting ourselves in **French**.

Please see the annual overview for further details.

PE:
This term the children will have one P.E slot on Wednesday afternoon. The first two weeks back (Wed 2nd & 9th Sep) will be PE in school with Mr Tanner. The children will then begin swimming lessons for 10 weeks at Cirencester Leisure Centre with Mr Tanner accompanying the class. A letter will follow shortly from the school office providing further details of the sessions and the cost.

The dates for swimming are as follows:
Sep: 16th ,23rd & 30th
Oct: 7th & 14th
Nov: 4th,11th, 18th & 25th
Dec: 2nd

The last two weeks of term (Wed 9th and 16th Dec) will revert back to PE in school with Mr Tanner.
Children are grouped by ability and previous swimming achievements are taken into account. The staff are very experienced and are great at dealing with children of all abilities, including those who are less confident or non-swimmers. We appreciate that some children may already be confident swimmers, however swimming and water safety is a statutory element of the national curriculum for physical education in England in Years 4 and 5. In previous years, the instructors have spotted some talented swimmers at AK who have gone on to swim for the local swimming club.

We ask that on swimming days the children bring in an additional healthy snack to eat after their swimming lesson, as they have usually worked up an appetite! Please can children also have suitable warm clothing, including a coat, to wear.

Home Learning:
Children have access to Doodle for home learning. Children can self-select the tasks that are most appropriate for them. If they haven't used it in some time, they will have to do a 'baseline' which will then allow the program to tailor the work to the appropriate level for your child. It really is an excellent resource and we're looking forward to seeing lots of children maintaining their time in the green zone. We may also set some additional home learning using Maths.co.uk. We will put their login details for this in their reading records.

Reading:
Reading records are expected in and updated every day with an indication of what has been read and how much (page numbers noted), along with a small comment either from an adult or from the child themselves regarding what they have read. While we allow the children to read independently and mark this in their reading record, it is still beneficial for children to continue to read aloud to an adult to develop fluency, flow and expression. This is also a great opportunity to help support with unfamiliar vocabulary, discuss the text and ask questions to help their comprehension.
For children who are still on banded books, it is really important that they read to an adult **daily** at home please. They will also be heard in school by an adult.

Maths: Children need to spend between 5-10 minutes x5 times a week (or any other way of making up 25-50 minutes) on Doodle maths. The aim is for the children to be in the green zone on the little Doodle petrol gauge on the screen.
We may also use Maths.co.uk to set assignments based on what the children are learning in school.

Times tables: Children are encouraged to use Times Tables Rockstars for practising their times tables every day where possible for 5 minutes. Little and often is best! Garage is useful to test children on tables the algorithm has deemed need practice.

Dates for your diaries

P.E will be on a **Wednesday** for the Autumn Term
Forest School sessions: Tuesday 15th September and Tuesday 13th October
Swimming – Term 1: Sep: 16th ,23rd & 30th Oct: 7th & 14th
Swimming – Term 2: Nov: 4th,11th, 18th & 25 Dec: 2nd
Class assembly: Spring Term. Date TBC (it will be a Tuesday).
Stay and Share Session: Tuesday 10th November – 9:00 – 9:30

Viney Hill: Thursday 3rd - Friday 4th December. A letter will be sent in the Autumn term providing further information and there will be a presentation from Mrs Saville for parents after school in October – date to follow.

Best wishes
Miss Usher, Miss Redman and the Class 4 team.