



POTTEN END C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Church Road, Potten End, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 2QY

Telephone 01442 865022

Fax 01442 874974

e-mail: admin@pottenend.herts.sch.uk

www.pottenend.herts.sch.uk

Head Teacher
Mrs Denise Kennedy

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Dear Year 4 Parents,

I hope that you all had a lovely summer and you are all well. We are very excited about starting the new academic year and look forward to working with you and your child/ren this year.

English	To begin the year we will be looking at Graphic novels. Our focus text will be Arthur and the Golden rope, we will be looking at how this genre blends art and storytelling, using a combination of illustration and text Panels of different shapes and sizes. We will then move on to explanation texts, poetry and some narrative texts as well. During the term, we will be looking at how to punctuate speech correctly, how to use expanded noun phrases to add detail to our writing, the use of pronouns to avoid repetition and the importance of using a variety of conjunctions to add interest to the reader and include more detail in our writing. Our writing curriculum will follow the programme essentials writing to ensure robust coverage of genres and skills. Handwriting – the children will revisit letter formation and fluency in their early morning sessions and will be reminded throughout their time in Year 4. There will also be a big push on spellings this year. We will continue to follow the Hertfordshire essential spelling programme to practice our skills.
Mathematics	In maths we will continue to follow the Essential maths programme which provides both scaffolding and challenge for all the children as they need it. We will be looking at the following areas in the Autumn Term: Initial assessment and reactivation of multiplication tables, Number and place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, mental strategies, measures, time, multiplication and division- formal strategies. In addition, we will have a focus during mental fluency on arithmetic skills and strategies taught in year 3 to solve a calculation. There will be a daily focus on developing maths mastery skills and applying their understanding of maths strategies in problem solving. In the Summer Term of Year 4, the children sit the statutory Multiplication Tables Check. We will be holding a meeting with more information about this, but support for the children on learning their times tables at home would be wonderful!
Science	In the autumn term we will be studying sound and states of matter. We will explore these topics through working scientifically and conducting a range of experiments.
Computing	Our first computing topic is online safety and coding. This will then be followed by spreadsheets. We will be following the Purple Mash scheme in our computing lessons.
History/ Geography	We will start with a History focus and will learn about the Romans withdrawal from Britain. We will be exploring who the Romans are, the Roman invasion, Boudicca and how these all affected the withdrawal from Britain. After half term, we will be 'Miini-mappers' in Geography and will focus on locations skills, grid references and contours.
R.E.	The children will be learning about Christianity – The Creation, Fall and Incarnation.
PSHCE	The PSHCE focus for the autumn term is all about Being Me and Celebrating differences.
P.E.	Year 4 P.E sessions will take place on a <u>Tuesday</u> and <u>Thursday</u> . We will be continuing to keep the children active during their learning PE lessons will be with Game on who will carry out fundamentals training and Tag rugby will be taught by Mrs Paton. After half term they will have Dance and netball.

Music	In the two half-terms the children will be taught music by Dragon of the North; a visiting peripatetic music teacher who will teacher the appropriate year 4 national curriculum aims.
MFL (French)	The children will be taught about themselves, their family, number, time and animals.
Art/ Design & Technology	During the first half of the Autumn Term, we will be focusing on Art. We will explore how artists create sequenced drawings to share and tell stories. After half term, we will complete our first DT unit. The children will be exploring different fastenings and design and make a textile book cover that includes a fastening of their choice.

Homework – The focus for homework will be reading/phonics and maths. Every week, your child is expected to read or follow their learning from Read, Write, Inc. In addition to this, they will have 1 piece of maths homework which will alternate between online home learning and home learning in an exercise book. This learning will be relevant to the learning they are doing in school.

Reading/Phonics: Your child should read at least 3 times a week or complete their individual phonics work. It is lovely to see what the children are reading in school so please record this in their reading record. Please note, these are not used to record every time your child reads in school as this happens regularly.

Maths: Maths homework will be set each week either as an activity on maths.co.uk (Y1-Y6) or an alternative online platform, or via their homework book.

www.maths.co.uk Your child will have an individual login for maths.co.uk. The activities are set based on your child's maths skills and results will be analyzed in school to support the teachers assessment and planning. This will not be 'marked' in the traditional sense as this is done online.

ESSENTIALS maths homework- This will be an activity based on what your child is learning in school at the time or will be an essential skill that needs a little more work. There will be a worked example, and then 2 or 3 challenge levels. Your child can choose their challenge level based on their confidence in that particular area of maths. Using activities which align with the learning in school, supports the children's retention of skills and also gives you a chance to see the range of vocabulary and strategies your children are using in the classroom.

In the resources section on Google Classroom, we will add any other websites or resources that we think might be useful for your child to access at home. For example the statutory spelling lists that we will be working on in school and links to TTRockstars, purple mash, maths.co.uk etc.

This year due to the multiplication check at the end of year 4, there will be a significant emphasis on the practicing, learning and testing of times tables. There will be further information on the multiplication tables check to follow.

I hope that this provides a useful insight into the exciting work we will be enjoying this term. We are excited to get started. If you have any questions that you would like to ask, please do not hesitate to email or telephone the office or pop in to arrange an appointment.

Kind regards

Mrs Julia Paton and Mrs Abby Deacon
Year 4 Class Teachers