



Welcome to Kestrel Class

Dear Parents and carers,

A warm welcome back to everyone and to the start of year 4! I hope that your child will settle in quickly and is happy in Kestrels. Year 4 is an exciting time with so many fantastic topics to learn and a chance to demonstrate greater maturity and independence.

Teaching staff

I will be teaching Kestrels Class with Mrs Ekoku covering my non-contact and Deputy Headteacher release time. We will be ably assisted by Mrs Dalglish and Mrs Adil throughout the week.

PE

For the first half term, PE and Games lessons will take place on **Wednesdays and Thursdays**. Key Stage 2 will continue to **come to school in PE kits on their PE days**. Plain black hoodies should be worn please. We will, of course, inform you in advance of any changes to our PE days.

For the first half term, Year 4 will take part in Forest School or OAA (Outdoor Adventurous Activity) sessions on alternate weeks on a **Wednesday**. More information will be sent to parents tomorrow about Forest School. On Wednesdays, children are to come to school in their PE kits, even if they are attending Forest School, bringing extra clothing for the session.

Autumn 1 (until October half term)	Wednesday Forest School or Outdoor Adventurous Activities Thursday PE
Rest of the year	Mondays and Thursdays

After October half term, PE/Games sessions will change to a **Monday**. I will send a reminder nearer the time!

Reading

Your child may well be enjoying books independently and reading needs to be recorded in their reading diaries daily. Children should continue to read to an adult regularly. Once again, it is important that you fill in the reading diary, noting the date, page number reached, and a comment on your child's reading or discussions about the text. Shared reading and discussion of the story are very helpful. Please encourage your child to read with expression, and to give opinions about the characters in the story, the plot, and what might happen next. Reading diaries will be checked regularly by myself or a teaching assistant. In class, we will develop reading skills including fluency, retrieval of information, vocabulary and inference and deduction within three comprehension lessons a week.

Maths

Please help your child with their mental manipulation of numbers to increase their confidence and speed. This could include counting forwards and backwards from a given number, or simple addition and subtraction problems. These are great for long car journeys or bath times! Please continue to practise the multiplication and division facts for times tables to 12 x 12 - the children need to know the tables off by heart in preparation for the Multiplication Tables Check in the Summer. There are lots of games to practise tables on the internet. The children can also practise their maths skills on the Mathletics website. Logins to follow.

Home Learning

Each Thursday, your child will receive a piece of English and maths homework, **to be returned by the following Tuesday**. There will also be an independent learning project set in the Autumn and Spring terms: more details will be provided nearer the time.

Children are encouraged to bring in any relevant resources from home related to our learning.

Equipment

The children only need a book bag or a **small** rucksack to carry their belongings otherwise the cloakroom gets very crowded! It is vital come to school with the correct equipment daily.

Children need a **small** pencil case with: **a named pencil, rubber, sharpener, glue stick, small selection of colouring pencils and a ruler. Felt tips and gel pens are not required.** I have deemed some children's handwriting neat enough to write in pen. I am sure as the weeks progress, a greater number will demonstrate consistently neat writing to be granted permission to write in pen! I understand some pupils have their own equipment, which is splendid. Free flowing ink pens and fountain pens are fine (preferably blue ink please as this looks neater). Pencil cases should fit in their tray. They certainly **do not** need large pencil cases, novelty stationery or small toys which distract them from their work. Any oversized cases may be put back into bags and sent home. Thank you for your support with this – already it is clear children are coming to school with appropriate resources and I would like to maintain this, ensuring every child is ready to learn with the equipment required for each lesson!

I look forward to working with you and your child this year and seeing you at the Welcome Curriculum Meeting: date to be announced.

If you have any worries or queries, please do come and talk to me or send me an e-mail: I find it is always best to nip concerns and issues in the bud.

Best wishes,

Mrs Louise Knock

Year 4 (Kestrels) Class Teacher

Deputy Headteacher

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