

Autumn Newsletter

Mockingbird Class – Mrs Parsons, Mrs Mallion and Ms Esdale.

Welcome to Mockingbird Class! I trust you all enjoyed the summer break, and are ready to take on the challenges and adventures of the new academic year and the new term. This term our wider curriculum focus is Science, History, Geography, Computing, DT and Art. Our Discovery topics are **Living Things and their Habitats** and **Anglo-Saxons and Rivers**. In these topics, we will be exploring the struggle between the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons over Great Britain as well as the world of biodiversity and classification of plants and animals. Online safety, drawing and food technology are also covered this term.

PE Schedule & Equipment

PE will take place on a **Monday and Friday**. Pupils will return to getting changed at school. Please don't send them to school wearing kit. Correct PE kit includes shorts, t-shirts jogging bottoms, a jumper and trainers. Hair should be tied up and jewellery removed. Our focus this term will be **Rounders** and **Hockey**. PE is a core subject. If your child is unable to participate in a session, we will require a written note.

Times Tables Rock Stars



TT Rock Stars is our fun, interactive programme designed to improve recall of the Times Tables. We are going to encourage that our Year 4's access and practice on TTRS as much as possible, ideally 15 mins a day.

Multiplication Tables Check

There will be a statutory Multiplication Tables Check at the end of Year 4 where pupils will be expected to complete an online assessment of their times tables knowledge up to 12x12. It's just like a Soundcheck in TTRS!

Home/School communication/home learning

Year 4 children should read every day. Reading a range of genres with fluency and confidence is not only a National Curriculum Objective, but an essential life skill; one that is vital for learning across all subjects and future education. Please **encourage** your children to read at least **3 x per week**, ideally every day. **Ask** them questions about what they've read, **discuss** unfamiliar words and how the language impacts the reader.

Reap the rewards of Reading!

Reading logs will be checked every **Thursday**. We will be looking for **at least 3 signed reads per week**. Children that reach certain milestones, show the most improvement or consistency will receive the Champion Reader Award and be displayed in class for all to see!

Mockingbird Class Homework

In addition to reading, all children will be given spellings and times tables to practise each week. Spellings and times tables will be given on out on a Monday with children being tested the following Monday. In addition, if you take an iPad home you can use it to practise Letterjoin, TT Rockstars and Bug Club. There will also be a takeaway menu full of interesting tasks related to our topics. We will require one of these completed each week either on paper or using the iPad.

Helping your child at home

When reading with your child, please ask questions about the book. This will really help to develop their reading comprehension. Ideas for questions can be found in the middle of the Reading Record. Comments written in the Reading Record could be answers to questions, opinions or recommendations. If you like the book, please say **why!** Please don't just write that you have read the book.

Spellings can be learned through the Look, Cover, Write, Check method on the sheets provided or digitally on the iPads.

iPad project

We are looking forward to starting our 1:1 iPad project! If you take yours home, please make sure that they are charged and brought to school every day ready to use.

Correct School Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform each day, including black shoes. As the weather is changeable this term, please ensure your child has a coat every day.

