



# 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. I am delighted to be teaching the children for a second year and we will be able to 'hit the ground running'.

Year 4 is an exciting time with so many fantastic topics and demonstrate greater maturity and independence.

## Teaching staff

I will be teaching Woodpecker class, with the help of Mrs Dalglish, Mrs Persson and Mr Lucas, our Teaching Assistants. Mr Lucas will be in class every day, Mrs Dalglish will be working with us on Monday – Thursday mornings and Tuesday afternoons and Mrs Persson will be supporting us on a Tuesday morning.

On a Wednesday, Mrs Russell will teach the children for the majority of the day. French lessons continue to take place every other Friday, taught by Mrs Bowman.

## Sport

PE and Games lessons are on **Mondays and Thursdays**. Key Stage 2 will be mirroring Key Stage 1 and **come to school in PE kits on their PE days**. We will inform you in advance of any changes to our PE days.

## 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.

## Spellings

On Mondays, the children will bring home a list of spellings to learn for a test on Friday – they will be based on sounds or rules they have been learning in class, high frequency words which they need to practise and statutory Year 3-4 words or words which will help in other areas of the curriculum. Please help your child to learn their spellings and ensure that they know what they mean. Please check that the children return their **snipped corner spelling book** to school every Monday to write in the new words.

## 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 (please remind the children to use their Online Safety knowledge when using 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.

### **Curriculum**

The curriculum overview is available on our class page on the school website. 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.

As explained last year, they should bring in 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 soon – the dates for these meetings will be confirmed in the next few days.

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

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Year 3 (Woodpeckers) Class Teacher

Deputy Headteacher