



Friday 14th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We are looking forward to a busy and exciting Autumn term. We are writing to give you an overview of the topics, areas of learning and general systems and routines for this term. You will be able to find out more about the Year 4 curriculum at our curriculum meeting on **Friday 21st September from 9.00-9.15** You are warmly invited to stay for tea and coffee following the meeting from **9.15-9.30am**.

Literacy: We will be working on our writing skills in Year 4 through a variety of genres and texts. In the first half term we will be working on narrative, inspired by 'The Firework Makers Daughter' by Phillip Pullman and persuasive writing linked to our focus on The Romans. We will then move onto newspaper reports and poetry in the second half term. As a class, there will be a clear focus on spelling and punctuation, to prepare them for the higher expectations in Year Four. To support children in their writing, Brookfield staff have identified key areas of writing that our children would particularly benefit from focusing on. Creativity and expression are real strengths of Brookfield writers and this will continue to be celebrated and promoted in class. These more technical elements of writing are going to be a big focus at Brookfield this year, with the expectation that children confidently and consistently demonstrate their year's elements by the end of the Summer term. Part of these 'Non-Negotiables' include the spellings identified by the National Curriculum and high-frequency words that children continue to misspell. Please keep both lists in a place where your child can easily refer to when writing. They will be made available on the school website shortly.

Spelling: The termly spelling list outlines which words will be practised and tested each week. Attached, are suggested spelling strategies that your child may find useful. Please help your child practise and learn the relevant spellings.

Reading: To assist the children's reading development, it is expected that they will read at home for at least 10 minutes each day. We would like you to check that your child is reading regularly and writing their reading comment in their reading diary *every week*. It is expected that they read at least five times a week. As part of their homework we would like to see a detailed comment in their new orange Reading Record. Prompts of how to write the comments can be found at the back of them. The orange Reading Records should be handed in **every Tuesday**. Comments will be checked by the teachers and Learning Support Assistant. Please support your child by discussing their book and asking them questions. This is to encourage them to think about what they are reading in greater depth.

Maths: In Year 4, the children will be covering topics such as counting, partitioning, using different calculation methods, data handling, investigating shape and space, using different measures and securing number facts. They will use both mental and written methods. Children shall be provided with learning opportunities that enable them to utilise their knowledge and skills to solve and interpret real life problems in context. We will also be undertaking lessons specifically practising problem solving skills. They will also be doing a regular maths warm up called 'Brain Gym', which targets daily revision of key maths skills, which will help identify individual targets for children. We will be doing PAC Maths on Thursday 4th October, allowing you to join in a session of Maths activities with your children. Year 4 children are expected to know all of their times tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of the Summer Term. We will be practising timestables regularly using the school's 'Times Table of the Week' approach, including division facts (e.g. $8 \times 7 = 56$, $56 \div 7 = 8$), where they can achieve bronze, silver or gold awards.

Science: Our Science topics this term are 'Electricity' and 'Animals, including Humans'. The children will be investigating these topics both independently and in small groups, reflecting on their findings. Each lesson will be linked to a specific scientific enquiry skill, for example, observing closely, evaluating results or making hypotheses.

Computing: In the first half term, the children will be learning and practising new computing skills in discrete lessons, and also in conjunction with other subject areas such as Literacy and Science. We will begin the year by revising and learning key skills in Microsoft Word and using the internet. In the second half term we will be focusing on coding, practising these skills through the use of the 'Scratch' software. Additionally, we will be using the school's set of ipads in a variety of lessons to support our learning.

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History: Our major topics this term focus on 'The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain' and 'Anglo-Saxon Britain'. Each History lesson will be focused on a specific historical skill, such as using timelines or researching online.

P.E: Year 4 will be taking swimming lessons this term (on a Monday afternoon), as well as doing cross country, netball and basketball (Wednesday 4L, Thursday 4E). Haseeb and Aaron will continue to lead P.E lessons at Brookfield. Please remember to bring in a clean, dry swimming kit including swim cap, towel and swimming costume in a bag EVERY Monday, as well as a PE kit containing shorts and a top (warmer clothes also permitted for cross country). Children **must** bring in suitable footwear for PE lessons, including old trainers for cross country.

Art and D.T: In the first half of the term we will be concentrating on Art, which will also be linked to our history topic, where we will be creating our own Roman-style Mosaics. If you have any expertise or would like to support us in class, we would really appreciate your support. In the second half term we will be developing the skills of construction through our DT work, linking to our Anglo-Saxon topic.

P.S.H.E and R.E: In P.S.H.E we will be covering a range of topics (through Circle Time and discreet lessons), including continued focus on the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child. Tamatha will also be running weekly mindfulness workshops in both Year 4 classes throughout the year. This year at Brookfield we will be doing RE a little differently by dedicating a full day once a term to our chosen topic rather than on a weekly basis. This is something working well in schools across Camden. Our 'RE day' this term will be looking at the theme of 'Belonging' in Islam. As a Rights Respecting School, we have started the year by writing our class charters and thinking about how children and adults within the class can respect each other's rights.

Music: This year, Year 4 is lucky to be taking part in the 'Wider Opportunities Project' where they will be learning the guitar, fife or recorder. After they have been issued an instrument, it is *very important* that they bring in their instruments every Thursday in preparation for their lessons.

French: In French we will be continuing to learn basic vocabulary and simple sentences related to a variety of topics, including telling the time, visiting a town, and shopping.

Key dates

- 20th September - Wider Opportunities starts
- 21st September - Year Four Curriculum Presentation (9am)
- October - Black History Month
- 4th October - Y4 PAC Maths
- 5th October - INSET day 3 (School closed)
- 8th October - 4E Owl Bookshop trip
- 4L Owl Bookshop trip - date TBC
- 10th October - RE day
- 11th October - Open Afternoon
- Week beginning 15th October - Black History Week
- 16th October - Museum of London trip (both classes)
- 19th October - RE day

- Week Beginning 22nd October - Half-Term
- Week beginning 12th November - Anti-Bullying week
- 29th November - Wider Opportunities finished for Autumn
- 1st December - Winter Fair (tbc)
- 21st December - Last Day of Term

As always, we are very keen to have volunteers to accompany us on trips and outings. We welcome support from you to enhance the children's learning. If you have any specialist skills or talents that you can offer please come and talk to one of us.

Please do not hesitate to contact us in the playground at the end of the day, by email or through the school office if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Lauren, Emily and Mary

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Handy Reminders:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4E & 4L SWIMMING	Homework handed in 4L - PE	4E- PE	Homework given out 4E & 4L MUSIC BRING IN INSTRUMENTS	

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