

# Welcome to Year 4!

## Be the Light!

Autumn Newsletter 2021

Firstly, I'd like to say a warm welcome to all of Year 4 and their parents. I am looking forward to this term and it is already looking like it will be one which captures the children's interests! I am already looking forward to making some great memories with them and teaching them some new skills!

This term is already looking to be a very exciting (and busy) one. This year has been inspired by Ezra and we will be challenged to "Rise Up, Have Courage and Do it!" and our first topic, focused on life in the dark ages, will get the ball rolling in great style! The children will be given many exciting learning opportunities throughout the term— both in the classroom and further afield. I hope they are ready for the challenges which await them!

### **What can we learn about life in the Dark Ages?**

As a class we are learning to 'Be the Light' so, as a result, we've decided to cast some light onto what life was like in the times of the Anglo-Saxons! In support of this, we will be reading the stories of Beowulf and Roald Dahl's *The Witches* to inspire our writing in English. We will be journeying back in time as we learn about these early settlers and the lives they led. We will also learn more about key people from this time, such as Alfred the Great. In Geography we will be using studying different types of settlements whilst learning more about how and why the Anglo Saxons chose to settle in the British Isles.

In RE, Art and D&T the children will be working alongside Miss Ferrara. In RE the children will be learning about the important people in the Bible and in our own families and how we prepare for Jesus' coming during Advent through the topics of **People, Being Called** and **Gifts**. In Art, Ben Mosely will be our focus artist and through exploration of his work, the children will learn about using a variety of pencil grades to sketch with more accuracy. In D&T the children will be designing and creating a variety of Anglo-Saxon inspired structures fit for purpose!

Our scientific investigations will be inspired by this period in history as we generate light ourselves! We will learning more about electricity as we construct electrical circuits, learn about insulators and investigate materials which conduct electricity! We will even have time to learn how we see light and how shadows are formed in the second half of term.

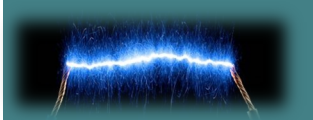
In Mathematics we will be working hard to develop our understanding of place value and to perfect our addition and subtraction strategies. We will be improving our knowledge and recall of our multiplications facts up to the 12 x table and we will be using both Times Tables Rocks Stars and Mathletics on a weekly basis to hone these skills further at school and home.

Hymn Practice will restart on a weekly basis, as will music lessons. In MFL we will be learning to ask and answer simple questions in French whilst learning to write some words and phrases in French from memory. During our Forest School sessions we will be using we will be learning about basic bushcraft skills and how to construct shelters both in the classroom and in the forest. When we are in the Computer Lab, we will be learning about internet safety. We will also be using our time in the lab to learn more about maps of local settlements over time.



### Dates for your diary....

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Back to School     | 1/9       |
| Y4 Swimming        | 6/9       |
| Mass of Welcome    | 23/9      |
| Harvest Mass       | 7/10      |
| World Mental       | 8/10      |
| Parent Meetings    | 13/1      |
| Parent Meetings    | 14/1      |
| Year 4 Assembly    | 18/11     |
| Advent Celebration | 1/12      |
| Christmas Jumper   | 15/1      |
| Advent Mass        | 16/1      |
| End of Autumn Term | 17/1<br>2 |





**Notice:** PE kit will still be needed in school all week from every Monday—Friday. Signed diaries and homework are collected each Monday.

## Keeping fit and staying strong in Year 4!

BRW are committed to active learning. As part of this commitment Year 4 will be taking part in a 'K a Day' from September 2021. Our aim is to increase our energy and fitness levels by engaging in regular movement and activity breaks. On a daily basis the children, alongside myself and the Year 4 team, will be putting our active feet forwards every day to engage in walking or jogging one kilometer a day. In support of this, please ensure your child has trainers in school daily. They will also need a water proof jacket in school in order that we can remain active even when the weather worsens.

Furthermore, Year 4 will be engaging in PE sessions each Tuesday this term with Mrs Toyne and every other Wednesday with Mr Fearn. These sessions will focus on fundamental skills of agility, balance, coordination and team work. Once we have built upon our existing skills in these areas we will have chance to showcase them as Year 3 and 4 will compete together as a competition at the end of the term. Swimming will take place for four weeks in September. We will also be taking part in a series of Dance and Yoga sessions this term to help develop flexibility and focus on Fridays alongside Mrs Bathgate.

### How you can help...

- 1) Check homework newsletters which go out each Monday. This will have up-to-date information on the children's activities too.
- 2) Regular use of Times Tables Rocks Stars and Mathletics will help the children master recall of their multiplication facts up to 12x12 by the end of Year 4.
- 3) Encourage your children to read at home daily and ask them questions about what they are reading.



## Year 4 at Forest School

Year 4 will be taking part in a series of Forest School sessions this term. We will be inspired by our studies of the Anglo-Saxons as early settlers and survivors as we learn more about the Trio of Survival—water, warmth and shelter. A letter with full dates, details and other useful information will be with you shortly. Watch this space for more information.

If your child has any plant allergies or you are able to support with the sessions, please let us know at the school office.

