

## Class 4 Newsletter Summer 2020

Welcome back!

Well this is not what any of us were expecting at the beginning of the school year! On the whole, everyone seems to have adapted amazingly well to the current reality. Parents – I salute you! It's just fabulous to receive all your emails about what you and the children have been doing together. As I said in an email the other day, quite frankly I'm so relieved that I didn't have to do this as a parent to younger children!

The main message I want to get across is that all of this has to be **manageable**. Some of you have children who are able to organise themselves to largely work independently and have really benefited from having a timetable to follow. Other parents are “spinning lots of plates” and are only able to help with school work in the mornings. Either is fine. I think we are all doing our best to keep the children at least ticking over, so that they don't lose ground on what they have learned so far this year. I am here to support you and if it is all becoming a stressful struggle, please email me and I'll see what I can do to make the situation better. If your child is getting stressed, take whatever time out they need.

Saying that, I am still going to send out a **suggested** weekly timetable, as many of you have fed back that this is really helpful. I'll try to send it by email on a Sunday evening and I will also put it on Google Classroom for the children to see. (Don't worry about why some things are red -they are the things I still need to put on GC!) If you do have to prioritise tasks for whatever reason, please can you try to ensure that they complete the morning tasks (ie Literacy and Numeracy) The Science is an ongoing garden project which can be nibbled away at. Mrs Roberts will be setting the topic work (Life for children during WW2). I have tended not to put hand in dates on the tasks so that you don't feel under pressure to get them done by a certain time. Please just do what works best for your family.

Videos: I have had lots of lovely comments about the short videos I've posted for Literacy. I am intending to do more of these including some for Maths. I will also be posting a storytime each day. I'm glad that the raffle is still motivating.

In school, I would set the bar higher to earn a raffle ticket, but under lockdown I'm doing a raffle ticket for every piece of work returned to reward their efforts.

Maths: This is beginning to get tricky! The next topic is Time. From past experience I know that Yr 4 children are in wide variety of places with this topic! Some will be confident and ready to use the 24 hour clock, whilst others are still getting the hang of half past/ quarter past/ quarter to. I am going to have to put up a whole range of resources and teaching videos on GC. The children will need to start from wherever they are at. They may need some assistance from you to find their starting point. It is a topic where some children, who are otherwise competent mathematicians, can struggle a bit.

After Time, we are going to have to go back and complete the unit on Fractions and Decimals. I was hoping to avoid this as a home learning topic but they also need to do the unit on Money and that requires confidence with decimals. If it looks like we may be returning to school after the May half term, I may still spare you this (!) and bring forward work on Shape, Position and Direction. Watch this space.

Club Maths: I have had several requests for Club Maths sheets. Unfortunately, I only have hard copies of most of these and they are at school. I'm afraid that it would take me a very long time to scan and send individual sheets to each child each week. What I suggest instead is that we make the Mathsframe Multiplication Check a little more formal so that they see the need to practise their tables. In the session on Weds mornings, they could have three goes and send me the best score. Remember, for those less confident, you can adjust which tables they will be tested on and how long they have to answer the questions. If you can email me the score by Friday morning, I will give a raffle ticket to those getting at least 21/ 25 or to those who seem to have made good progress on what I would have expected. I will need to know, however, if you have adjusted the tables and the timings. Hope that makes sense!

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>

Mathletics: Here is some guidance:

Please can the children work through the topics in this order:

- a) Finish any topics up to Fractions .
- b) Complete any tasks in the Fractions unit which relate to work we have covered already.
- c) Do the Statistics unit
- d) Do the Time unit

I think all these units are “active” for them. Please let me know if there are any they can't access.

As with other tasks, they only need to do the allocated time on the timetable.

### Literacy:

It's great to hear that lots of the children have been exploring Epic. Please try to hear them read to you as often as possible.

Many of the children have been doing the spelling tasks. We will stick to the same pattern of testing on a Monday morning and then learning and practising the new ones on Tuesday and Weds. The “Be the Teacher” tasks on Thursdays have been popular so I will keep setting these and it will be Handwriting on Fridays.

The next writing unit is about persuasion. I think they will enjoy the tasks I have planned for them – this week it is about a theme park which they can create themselves.

After that we will do a long unit of work based on the Classic children's story Five Children and It by E Nesbitt. Please note that the movie with the same name (featuring Eddie Izzard) has very little to do with the book except the children's characters – everything about it is completely different!

I hope that this letter has clarified a few things. Please don't hesitate to email me if you have questions or concerns. I'm here to help!

Yours faithfully,

Kathy Maple