

Welcome to Year 4
Topaz Class
2024 - 2025

Teachers: Mrs Bearman (Mon-Wed) Mrs Dodge (Thurs, Fri)
Learning Support Assistants: Mrs Britton, Mrs Shirvani and Mrs Jeewoonarain

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year. We hope you all had a nice summer break and are ready for the academic year ahead. We are excited about your child being part of Topaz class and we look forward to working with you all this year.

This term's topic has a history focus – looking at Invaders and Settlers. Our science learning will be about States of Matter (focusing on solids, liquids and gases) and Animals including humans (which will be focused on nutrition). Further information about the curriculum will be available soon on the school website.

Please ensure your child has a named water bottle every day, reading book and reading record, named clothing and a healthy snack for break time, (Suggestions are fruit, vegetables, cheese and crackers, nut and chocolate **free** cereal bar, raisins etc. Please no crisps or biscuits/cakes)

P.E

Our P.E days this half term are Monday and Thursday. After October half term we will not have PE on Monday. Swimming will take place on Tuesday morning so necessary items need to be in school. Swimming kits must be plain black or dark colours please. **Your child needs to come into school wearing their PE kit on a Monday and Thursday**. They need their purple t-shirt, black shorts, trainers and a tracksuit, which needs to be black or a dark colour. Please ensure that jewellery is not worn on these days. Earrings are not allowed to be taped up but must be removed. We often have pieces of uniform/kit left in the swimming pool changing room so please make sure items are named.

Reading record books and reading books

Your child will receive their own reading record book, which will be used in school as well as home to show their reading progress. It is important to record in this book when your child has read to an adult. They can also record their own independent reading. Reading record books must be brought into school each morning and then taken home at the end of the day.

Your child will have a reading book which needs to be in school every day. The book can be from our classroom, school library, one of the STAR book collection or even a book from home. When they have finished reading their book, it is your child's responsibility to change it for a new one. We will give them opportunities to do this during the day.

Doodle Maths and Times Table Rockstars

Towards the end of year 4, there is a statutory times tables test which all children will take part in. This is to assess whether children know their times tables up to 12x12. We will teach and support the children's learning in school but regular use of TTRS as part of their weekly homework makes a *huge* amount of difference. They will already be familiar with Doodle Maths. This programme explores and deepens their understanding of a variety of key skills and should be accessed regularly at home. Staff are able to log on and monitor their accounts so please let us know if there are any problems.

Homework

Reading - We warmly encourage children to read for 15 minutes **at least 3 times per week**. If your child likes to read to themselves, please still offer opportunities for them to share their books with you. Ask them comprehension questions about the text, helping them to make inferences and summaries. This will help you know how well your child has understood what they have read. Please write a short comment in their reading record book.

Maths – As explained above, children are expected to regularly complete online sessions on Doodle Maths and TTRS each week.

Optional topic work - Every half term we will set a creative activity based on the topic they are exploring. You may want to send this activity in, or simply take a photograph to share with us. We would like to offer children the opportunity to explore their creative skills if they wish to do so but this is only an optional task.

Helping in class

We really value and welcome parents to help with reading and other activities. A DBS check will be required. If you would like to become a regular helper in school, please do let us know which days and times you are available and we'll find a job to suit you!

We look forward to working with you closely this year. If you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to come and speak to us.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Bearman and Mrs Dodge