



# Abbey Meads Community Primary School

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September 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 4! Our first topic this year will be 'Where My Wellies Take Me', based on the book of the same name by Clare and Michael Morpurgo. Our topic for term 1 is very much based on the natural environment and we hope to have lots of opportunities to explore our grounds and the local areas and allow the children to be familiar with the flora and fauna there.

In English, we will be investigating techniques to create powerful descriptive writing and using our wildlife area as a stimulus for pupils to create their own nature compositions. Later in the term, our focus will shift to factual report writing, where the children will develop their skills of informatively discussing the features of our local nature reserves. Spelling will continue to be a key focus within writing (especially common homophones and the use of double consonant words) and where needed, reviewing Phase 3 to 6 phonics strands. Children will also continue to work on the statutory spellings for Year 3 and 4. Spellings will be sent home on a Thursday (4Rowan) or Friday (4Sycamore) and tested the following week. Please ensure that your child's homework folder is brought into school on the day of testing and that they are regularly practising their words.

Pupils will continue to use the Accelerated Reader program this year to develop reading fluency and comprehension skills. Pupils should be coming home each evening with their chosen 'AR book' to read for a minimum of 20 minutes, five times a week. Pupils are encouraged to complete quizzes on their book, once they have completed the text. These build towards points and of course, prizes! This year, we have replaced the old 'Pact Books' with the online app, Boom Reader, where pupil reading progress and comments between the teacher and parent can be logged electronically. Pupils have been given a login, along with a letter to home to explain how to download the app to a phone/tablet and link up with your child's account. If you are having trouble with the app, please come and see us and we can help you get started.

In Maths, the children will be reviewing place value, and how to tell the value of each digit. This knowledge will enable pupils to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000, as well as round values to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. The children will review the use of addition and subtraction skills, applying these to worded problems and then extend this to more complex methods of multiplication (column method) and division ('bus stop'). We will continue to work on times tables and this term the children are learning their 7, 6 and 8 times tables. Multiplication tables will be learnt in class through chanting, games and other activities. Pupils will be tested each week and scores will be recorded and sent home in their homework folder. To help your child secure their tables knowledge, please encourage them to engage regularly at home with the Times Table Rock Stars Program.



Geography will play a significant part of our topic and pupils will be visiting Sevenfields Nature Reserve to conduct fieldwork activities. As part of this, pupils will develop their map reading skills, conduct surveys to gather data on the different flora and fauna within the area and create field sketch maps. This will take place later on in the term, but we will give you advance warning to help you prepare your child for this site visit.

PE this term will take place on Monday and Tuesday. With the update of our PE policy, pupils must now wear their kit into school on those days. PE kits should consist of a white t-shirt and black shorts, along with trainers, rather than daps. When the colder weather returns, pupils may wear jogging bottoms and a jumper.

We are fortunate enough to include Forest School as part of our curriculum in Year 4 and take each class out on alternate Friday mornings to do some exploration, animal and plant identification, games and craft using natural materials, in our grounds. We try to go out even if it is cold or a little wet and so would ask that when it is your child's turn to do Forest School that they bring in a change of (old) clothes, waterproof footwear and a bag to put muddy clothes and shoes into. When the weather turns wet or very cold, they will also need a waterproof, gloves and a hat.

#### Year 4 Forest School Rota

4Sycamore	4Rowan
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> September
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> September
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> October

If you have any questions or concerns, please get in contact.

Thank you,

The Year 4 Team