



Abbey Meads Community Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 4! Our first topic this year will be 'Where My Wellies Take Me', based on the poetry anthology of the same name by Clare and Michael Morpurgo. This topic is very much based on the natural environment and we hope to create lots of opportunities to explore our grounds and the local areas and allow the children to be familiar with the flora and fauna in these green spaces.

In English, we will begin the term with Haiku poetry, a Japanese, nature inspired style of poem. This will feed into a narrative unit, where children will be developing techniques to show character points of view. Later in the term, our focus will shift to factual report writing, where the children will develop their skills to informatively discuss the features of Seven Fields Nature Reserve. Children will also continue to work on the statutory spellings for Year 3 and 4. Spellings will be sent home on Tuesday 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.

The Accelerated Reader program remains a key aspect for pupils to enhance their reading development in Year 4. Pupils should come 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 can be done at home or school. In Year 4 and upper KS2, 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.

Our class novel for the term is *The Secret Garden*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett. This is considered one of the classics and sits 29th among Penguin's Top 100 Children's Books. As it was written at the start of the 20th century, the attitudes and beliefs of some characters do not mirror those of the current day. Such themes will be sensitively addressed, although the key focus will be to follow the main character's journey of self-discovery and personal improvement.

In Maths, the children will be reviewing place value, and how to tell the value of each digit. The children will review the use of addition and subtraction skills, applying these to worded problems. We will continue to work on times tables and this term the children are learning their 6, 7 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 Seven Fields 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 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 Tuesday. Our PE policy states that pupils can wear their kit 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 will also have Swimming, which will be our other PE unit up until Christmas. This will take place from the 14th September. Pupils will need to bring their swim suit and towel to school every Thursday.

We are fortunate enough to include Forest School as part of our curriculum in Year 4 and take each class out to do some exploration, animal and plant identification, games and craft using natural materials in our grounds. We try to go out in all weathers so children will need to bring 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. Forest School this term will be on Monday the 18th, 25th of September and 2nd of October.

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

Thank you,

The Year 4 Team