



Bottisham Community Primary School

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Headteacher: Mark Askew

Year 4/5 Spring Term Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back and Happy New Year! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break. A heartfelt thank you for the generous gifts I received before the holidays—they were truly appreciated. We have an exciting term ahead with lots to look forward to. One of the highlights for **Year 4 pupils** will be the Year 3/4 production, '**Oh What a Knight!**'. We will begin preparations for this towards the end of this half-term, and I can't wait to see what Year 4 produce!

Curriculum:

This term, our topic focus is **Geography**, with the theme '**Our European Neighbours**'. The children will be learning about different countries across Europe and exploring their physical features through a geographical lens.

In English, we will begin with a narrative unit based on '**The Outlaw Varjak Paw 2**' by S.F. Said, the exciting sequel in the Varjak Paw adventures. Following this, we will move on to a non-fiction unit where the children will create holiday brochures about Sicily in Italy. Our third unit will explore the thought-provoking narrative '**The Lost Thing**' by Shaun Tan, and we will finish the term with a poetry unit entitled '**Poems that Evoke Emotion: Cinquains**'.

In Mathematics, we are completing the second part of our **Multiplication and Division unit**. This will be followed by in-depth work on **Fractions**, and then we will move on to **Decimals and Percentages**.

As part of our RE learning, Year 4 pupils will be visiting Cambridge Central Mosque and C3 Church on 11th and 12th February. Letters have already been sent home detailing which day your child will attend, as Year 4 children in Maple class have been split between the days Birch and Elm are visiting. If you have any questions about the trip, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

What will my child need in school?

Each day, your child will need:

- A healthy morning snack (**no nuts, please**)
- A **named** water bottle (**no juice or squash**)

School will provide all writing tools, but children may bring a **small pencil case** if they wish. Pencil cases may remain at school, but water bottles should go home daily to be cleaned and refilled.





Reading:

This year is the **National Year of Reading**, giving us a great opportunity to celebrate books and inspire children to read for enjoyment. In school we'll be encouraging pupils to explore a wide range of texts and develop a love of reading that supports their learning in every subject.

Children should continue reading books from home or the school library to maintain and develop their reading progress.

Please record your child's reading in their Reading Record. I recommend **15 minutes every day**. I will check Reading Records on **Mondays** and award House Points to children who complete this task and have **5** entries within their reading records.

Homework:

Homework in Year 4 will include:

- A **times table to learn**, in preparation for weekly tests. We will use **Times Table Rock Stars** as a resource. Although we practise each week in school, it is important that children reinforce this at home — about **5 minutes per day**. There will be a weekly times tables test and occasional battles between classes!
- An **English, Topic or Science** task (approx. 20 minutes)
- A **Spelling Shed** sheet. To support preparation for our weekly spelling test, children can copy the spelling words into their homework books.

Every **Friday, Year 4 children** in Maple Class will be tested on the spelling words they have practised.

Homework in Year 5 will include:

- TTRS times table practice
- A **Spelling Shed** sheet. To support preparation for our weekly spelling test, children can copy the spelling words into their homework books.
- A Maths sheet connected to work completed in lessons
- A grammar sheet based around grammatical features children in Year 5 need to know

Every **Thursday, Year 5 children** in Maple Class will be tested on the spelling words they have practised.

Times Tables:

There will be a times table set for the children to practise in **Year 4**. TTRS offers many fun activities to help children learn their times tables and challenge others. The Soundcheck activity is a replica of the Government's Multiplication Tables Check that Year 4s will be undertaking in the Summer term. To practise other Maths skills we still encourage children to complete NumBots which can be accessed via their TTRS login.



PE



- **Wednesdays** – Outdoor PE
- **Mondays** – Indoor PE

At the start of this new term, please can you check and make sure that your child's PE kit (as well as any other school clothing) is labelled with their name.





Please ensure your child has a **named PE kit**, which should include:

- A plain white T-shirt
- Navy or black shorts
- Trainers
- Plain jogging trousers and a sweatshirt or hoodie for colder weather
- A **named, drawstring bag** to store their kit

Please note: Children should not wear **jewellery** on PE days. If your child is unable to take part in PE, please provide a written note or inform me/Mr Legge at drop-off time.

Indoor Shoes & clothing:

It is essential that **all clothing**, including shoes, is clearly named. Children must change into **indoor shoes** when entering the classroom.

Please ensure your child has a pair of **indoor and outdoor shoes** in school each day. I will check regularly to help keep the classroom carpets clean and safe.

Wearing indoor shoes is also vital in the event of an emergency or fire drill.

Maths and English Guidance:

As children progress through Key Stage Two, they will be learning new strategies and methods, especially in maths, for solving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division problems.

To support your understanding, please refer to the English and Maths booklets available to parents on the school website:

- [Maths Booklet](#)
- [English Booklet](#)

Other things to remember:



Homework and reminders will be posted on **Google Classroom**. Important information will be sent via **email**.

Please feel free to share photos or videos of your child's achievements or memorable moments on the **Class Stream**.

Google Classroom

Year 4 Parents:

As you may be aware, your child will take the **Multiplication Tables Check** during the summer term. Further information will be shared nearer the time.

Class information:

Maple Class:

Teacher: Mr Goddard
Cover Teacher: Mr Legge
Teaching assistant: Dr Sosnowiec





I hope your child has a wonderful Spring term! I'm looking forward to working and learning together over this next action-packed term!

Yours sincerely,
Mr Goddard
Y4/5 Class Teacher

February	
6 th	NSPCC Number Day
6 th	Year 4 Bikeability
9 th – 12 th	Year 5 Bikeability
9 th – 13 th	Children's Mental Health Week
10 th	Safer Internet Day
10 th	Maple DT Cooking (IMPACT FOOD)
11 th	Elm + selected Maple Y4 trip to Cambridge Central Mosque and C3 Church
12 th	Birch + selected Maple Y4 trip to Cambridge Central Mosque and C3 Church
16th -20th	Half-term
27 th	Whole school author visit - Joshua Seigal
March	
5 th	World Book Day
11 th	Theatre Production group in school showing 'Alice in Wonderland'
17 th and 19 th	Parent Meetings
24 th , 25 th , 26 th	Y3-4 Production dates - "Oh What a Knight!" all performances at 2pm
26 th	Class Photos
27 th	Last day of term

