



**ST. LEO'S AND SOUTHMEAD
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
SERVING THE COMMUNITY
LICKERS LANE
WHISTON
KNOWSLEY L35 3SR**

Head Teacher: Mrs J Grundy

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"A place to allow humanity to flourish."

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September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 4 children,

Welcome to year 4. I would like to introduce myself, I am Mrs Snape and I will be your child's teacher for this year. I am really looking forward to an exciting year ahead. I hope you have had an enjoyable summer and have spent some quality time with your child. All of the children have settled well into their new class and are already working hard. Here is some information about the coming year that will hopefully inform you of the important things you will need to be aware of this year. Please do not hesitate to come into school if you have any further questions. If you would like to speak about your child at any point at all during the year, please just telephone the school office to make an appointment with me, you do not have to wait until parents evening.

Mrs Snape - Year 4 Teacher

Attendance

As part of our 'Enjoy and Achieve' programme we celebrate attendance with rewards and prizes. There will be a class assembly and celebration at the end of each week with the children receiving certificates and prizes for the best attendance. The children (and staff) can get very competitive about attendance and we want to ensure that Year 4 is the class with the best attendance!

We strive at St. Leo's and Southmead for every child to be happy and that their voice is heard. Help and support is available within school if you feel there are

any difficulties in your child attending regularly. It is so important that your child attends school every day unless they are sick. If your child is absent please contact the school between 8.30 and 9.30, if we have not had a message after this time you will receive a courtesy call from school.

Punctuality

Please can you help us by making sure that your child arrives to school on time (school starts at 8.55am although the class door is open from 8.45), the children enter straight into class. Lessons begin the minute your child sets foot into the classroom. Praise and certificates will be given for the children with the best punctuality.

Dates for your diary

Dates for the coming school year, theme weeks and world book day/dressing up days, swimming and First Holy Communion dates are provided every year in September. In order to help you and give you as much notice as possible these are provided in news letters, welcome letters and on the school website. Please make a note in your diary as plenty of notice is provided for your child to take part in these days without the last minute rush/stress of finding costumes.

Website

Year 4 have their own page on the website to provide you with an insight as to what your child is learning in class each week. Photos, upcoming events and information on how to help your child at home will be updated termly.

Water

It has been scientifically proven that children having constant access to water helps to improve their learning. Therefore please can you help us by providing your child with a water bottle that needs to be refilled at home every day. Please can you ensure that it is filled with plain, unflavoured water as juice and flavoured water can ruin children's books, carpets and children's teeth.

Toast

The children can buy toast each day at break time. Toast costs 10p for one slice or 20p for two slices. Please can the children bring their toast money into class in a named envelope or a money bag? This will stop money being lost on the way to school. If your child does not wish to have toast, they can bring in a healthy snack to have at break.

Money and messages

Please ensure that all money is put in envelopes clearly marked with your child's name and what the money is for, as it can be confusing as to who has given me what and what for. Can you also write any messages in a letter as verbal messages can often be forgotten?

Book Club

Mrs Parry will be continuing Book Club on Tuesdays. This is a great opportunity for your children to become interested in books and learn reading skills for life!!!

Reading and Writing

Both Reading and Writing are important life skills. Reading and Writing skills are developed daily throughout the curriculum in Year four. Each child will be bringing a reading book home in their black book bags. If these have not been returned to school please return them as soon as possible. The children can then return the book to school once they have read it, which will then be exchanged for a new book to be brought home. Please feel free to share comments about your child's reading in their reading log and encourage your child to complete a book review.

Mathematics

Mathematics forms a life skill used daily. In Year four the children will learn all their times tables up to their 12 times tables as it is now a requirement for all children to know their tables by the end of year 4. Children will use games, songs and puzzles to practise their tables. Please encourage your child to chant their times tables on a regular basis to enable them to recall them confidently.

Uniform

Please ensure your child has the correct uniform and has their name in everything including their coat. Their school uniform is a reflection on the class, especially when we are out of school or when we have visitors into the classroom. Please ensure your child has a coat or rain jacket in school every day as the weather is very unpredictable and it enables the children to get some fresh air whatever the weather.

P.E.

P.E. is a compulsory lesson just like English and Mathematics, that your child must take part in. Your child's P.E. lessons are on a Tuesday morning. Please make sure your child has a full PE kit (plain shorts, T-shirt and pumps - with their name on everything) in school on a Tuesday morning. PE kits can be kept in school every day and sent home at half terms to be washed.

Swimming

As part of the P.E. curriculum your child will be given the exciting opportunity to have swimming lessons. This is a compulsory lesson as it is a requirement for all primary school children to learn to swim. The children will go swimming everyday (except Fridays) for two weeks in the autumn term (2nd - 12th

October) and then again everyday for two weeks in the summer term (25th June-5th July 2018). This programme has been very successful in the past and the children soon grow in confidence in the water. For these lessons the children will need swimming costumes (costumes, not bikinis for the girls and trunks not Bermuda shorts, for the boys), towels and swimming cap in school daily. The children can wear goggles although these are not compulsory. In order to help the children's confidence before we start lessons it would be really helpful if you could take the children to the swimming baths in order to develop their confidence in the water, thank you. More details about this will follow shortly.

Spellings

Your child will be sent home every week with a list of spellings. Your child will have a spelling test every Friday therefore they have plenty of time to learn their spellings. If possible, please spend some time helping your child to learn their spellings.

Timetable

Enclosed is a weekly timetable for Year 4 children. This timetable can change on a daily basis as visitors come into school or children are on trips etc... Therefore this timetable is very flexible.

Long Term plan and Curriculum map

Enclosed is a copy of the long term plan for the year which shows you the topics that your child will be learning about throughout the year. Your child can use this as a guide and maybe do their own research nearer the time.

Cultural trips

The children will be going on cultural trips this year to enrich their experiences, we will send you more details as the time approaches.

Theme weeks

We are continuing with our theme weeks this year as they have proven to be very popular and successful. We have lots of lovely, exciting theme weeks planned to take place throughout the year. More details will follow shortly.

Homework

We offer your child homework to reinforce their learning. Homework can be a fantastic way in which you can support your child with their learning. Therefore we think homework can be really valuable. Homework will soon be available for your child to complete and return to school each week to be marked. If you require any assistance with your child's homework please do not hesitate to contact me. There are also useful hints and tips for helping your child at home on the school website.

To support your child at home with their learning I have enclosed parental guidance and top tips for parents. I hope these are of some use to you. If you require any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

I am looking forward to the fantastic year ahead and appreciate the support that you give to both your child and the school.

Please look out for the first newsletter as they contain important dates and information. I have also included a list of some important dates and events for Year 4 to give you as much advance notice as possible e.g. parents evenings, celebration assembly dates etc

Many thanks

Mrs Snape

Important dates for your Year 4 diary

Autumn term 2017

- 4th September 2017 - Geography week(Rivers)
- 25th September - Poetry week
- 2nd-12th October 2017 - Year 4 to go swimming
- 16th October 2017 - Art week
- 19th October - Parents Evening -appointments will be sent out nearer the time
- 30th October 2017 - History week, we will be looking at how important the Romans were
- 17th November 2017 - Children in Need
- 24th November 2017 - Composers day, Year 4 will be looking at Franz Schubert
- 27th November 2017 - Maths day
- 11th December 2017- D.T week
- 14th December 2017 - Year 4 Christmas performance 2.30 in the school hall
- 19th December 2017 - Christmas lunch
- 20th December 2017 - Christmas party day
- 20th December 2017- break up for Christmas

Spring term 2018

- 3rd January 2018 - Return to school
- 8th January 2018 - Geography Week
- 29th January-2nd February 2018 - Ambition week
- 31st January 2018 - Year 4 parent reading workshop 8.45
- 2nd February 2018- Children can dress up for ambition week
- 7th February 2018 - Internet safety day
- 19th February 2018 - History week
- 28th February 2018 - Year 4 end of topic celebration in school hall at 2.30p.m.
- 1st March 2018 - World Book Day
- 5th March 2018 - Multi-culture week
- 9th March 2017 - School photographer in
- 12th March 2018 - World Maths day and Science, Engineering & technology week
- 16th March 2018 - Parents Science workshop 8.45
- 19th March 2018 - D.T week
- 23rd March 2018- Sport Relief Day children can come to school in their own clothes
- 28th March 2018 - Parents evening - appointments will be sent out nearer the time
- 29th March 2018 - Break up for Spring break

Summer term 2018

- 16th April 2018 - Geography Week
- 21st May 2018 - Art week
- 25th May 2018 - break up for Whit holidays
- 18th June 2018 -History week
- 27th June 2018 - Music day, music around the world
- 25th June -2nd July 2018 - Year 4 swimming
- 2nd July 2018 - Sports week
- 9th July 2018 - D.T. week
- 18th July 2018 - Party day
- 20th July 2018 - End of term