



## Happy New Year!

Hello Parents and Carers,  
May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year. I hope that you enjoyed the holidays and that 2023 brings you good fortune and prosperity. I would also like to thank you all for the cards and gifts I received before we broke up. I really appreciated them and I am really enjoying the sense of community we are developing in class 4. It's a privilege to be part of every day!

## Reading: What is reading fluency?

*"Fluency is the bridge between phonics and comprehension."*

*"So, it is with children who learn to read fluently and well: they begin to take flight into whole new worlds as effortlessly as young birds take to the sky."*

As a school, we are focussing on improving the reading fluency of our children. Fluency is important because it is the bridge between sounding out individual words and truly understanding them. It's the gateway to comprehension, or understanding. Fluent readers read aloud effortlessly and with expression. Their reading sounds natural, as if they are speaking. Because fluent readers do not have to concentrate on decoding the words, they can focus their attention on what the text means. They can make connections among the ideas in the text and their background knowledge. In other words, fluent readers recognise words and comprehend at the same time.

## Reading: How are we aiming to improve fluency?

### Class Novel

The teacher reading a class novel with the children is a great opportunity to model fluency. This term the class will enjoy listening to *The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips* by Michael Morpurgo. A heart-warming tale of courage and warmth which links perfectly to our topic as it is set against the backdrop of the second world war. The story itself is about an abandoned village, a lifelong friendship and one very adventurous cat!

### 60 Second Reads

Each Friday children will complete a 60 second read. They will be given a short extract of age-appropriate text with a word count of around 90-120 words. They will then be given a minute to read as much of it as they can. Each extract also contains a set of comprehension questions which the children will attempt to answer after the 60 seconds has elapsed. The overall aim of the activity is to test a pupil's level of fluency in relation to expected standard and chart their progress.

### Comprehension

We will aim to complete at least one comprehension lesson per week in class and sometimes comprehension questions will be set as homework.

### Reading at Home

All pupils should continue to read a *minimum of 4 times per week* for at least 15 minutes and this should be recorded in their diary. Thank you to the parents who have provided comments and updates

in their child's diary so far as it is very helpful for us. There must be 4 adult signatures each week in order your child to be entered into Friday's Reading Raffle. We hope that this will incentivise the children to read at least the 4 times and maybe more...

## Homework

The homework routine will remain the same throughout the spring term. It is important for your child's development that you support them in completing homework set and listening to them read on a regular basis.

Homework will be set on a Monday and due in on a Friday. All homework will be set through either Education City or Seesaw. The children will continue to receive two pieces of curriculum work per week alongside topic, spellings, reading and times tables practice.

## P.E.

### Swimming

During this term, class 4 children will be having swimming lessons as a part of the Physical Educational Curriculum. A coach will take the children to the baths at Dalton Leisure Centre on Monday mornings at 11:00am starting on **Monday 16th January 2023**. We will arrive back at school in time for lunch.

Children will need to bring a bag containing: -

Swimming kit (one-piece swimming costume for girls please), towel, hairbrush and bathing caps (all children with long hair must have their hair tied back).

Children will need to have their PE kits in school for **all PE** sessions. To start off the term, our other PE topic will be dance with Hannah from HP activities where children will learn a variety of dance techniques, taking inspiration from famous performances and pieces of music.

## Topic

Our topic at the beginning of the Spring term is 'World War 2'. The topic is covered in pairs of thoughtful, nuanced and age-appropriate sessions on some of the challenging issues arising from consideration of similarities and differences, lifecycles, life choices and sexual health and pregnancy. A more detailed overview is provided in the curriculum map but if you have any concerns with any of the content, please don't hesitate to contact me and we can discuss.

## Here's to 2023...

Thank you for your continued support, I hope that you have found the information useful and that we can continue to form an effective triangulation of pupil, parent and teacher throughout the rest of the year. I'm proud of what we have achieved so far and this makes me more determined to progress even further this term!

Thanks again,  
Mr B Wilson

