



Asfordby Hill Primary School

'Achieving High Standards in all that we do'

Asfordby Hill, Melton Mowbray,

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Head Teacher: Mrs P Millward

Chair of Governors: Mrs Jenifer Smith



Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer holiday full of relaxation, laughter and happiness. I hope the children are recharged and ready to have a super year in Year 4. I am looking forward to welcoming all the children into Beech class alongside Mrs. Purkis and Miss. Yarwood. We will do everything within our power to make sure they thrive not just academically but also within themselves to foster a love of learning whilst in Year 4.

Below, you will find essential information and general housekeeping for the year ahead.

Routines

8:45am: School begins promptly

Children should ensure they are lined up outside and wait for an adult to take them into the classroom.

3:15pm: School finishes

Children will be released from the side door by an adult. Please note that they will not be able to leave the supervision of the adult they are with until they have notified the member of staff they are with that their adult is here.

Belongings

All stationery is provided for the children, so children will not need to bring their own into school.

Children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day - it would be helpful (and far more environmentally friendly than disposable cups) if children continue to bring in a water bottle daily.

School reading books are sent home daily and are expected to be brought into the school daily.

Physical Education

PE will be taught on a **Wednesday** and a **Friday**. Children should continue to arrive at school in their PE kit on these days. PE kit should consist of a red jumper, navy-blue t-shirt, dark, plain bottoms and suitable trainers ('Converse'-style trainers are not suitable for PE).

On PE days, earrings should be removed or, if unable to be removed, taped. We will be going across to the field for PE this term, so appropriate footwear is essential. Kit is available to purchase through Parent Pay if you wish to – please contact the office for further information.

Homework

In Year 4 this year, there will be a push towards independence regarding homework. This is in preparation for the children entering upper Key Stage 2 next year. We have decided to develop this independence by giving the children a 'pick and mix' style of homework that once set, will last the whole term. There is however an expectation that 20 minutes of reading is done daily, with an adult or independently, practising Times Table Rock Stars 3 times a week and some independent practise of spellings.

As mentioned above, alongside the 3 expected pieces of weekly homework there will be option of around 6-8 smaller projects that the children can complete throughout the term. These smaller projects are to compliment work completed in class. Once these smaller projects have been completed, they can then bring them into class. The only expectation regarding the number to complete will be on the homework guidance which will follow shortly.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), Rainbow Skills and British Values

This term we will be looking at Families and Relationships. During this time, they will be learning about manners and respect, how to form and maintain healthy friendships and how their behaviour affects others, be that positively or negatively.

Messages/Communication

Should you have any messages, questions or concerns, my Seesaw messages are always open, or you may prefer to speak to me before/after school on the playground. Seesaw messages will be responded to at my earliest convenience – usually at the beginning or end of the school day. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that messages will be seen/responded to during the school day so any messages regarding changes to pick-up arrangements or other urgent messages should be directed to the school office.

The Importance of Mindset: Taking Risks, Persevering and Trying Hard

The key to success in Year 4 is that the children come to school every day with an open mind and one that is willing to learn. With a positive mindset there is nothing as a class that we cannot achieve. Regarding their learning, Mrs. Purkis, Miss. Yarwood and I will be asking the children to take risks, persevere and continually challenge themselves in all areas of their lives.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. As a team, will endeavour to do our utmost to ensure your child has a successful year in Beech Class.

I look forward to an exciting year with the children,

Mr. L Willoughby

Beech Curriculum - Autumn Term

English – Reading, Writing and Spelling

In English, during the first half of this term, I will be focusing on revisiting key concepts and prior knowledge from their time at AHS so far: what a sentence is; how to modify and expand noun phrases; how to use a range of adverbials to enhance their sentences; and how to write across a range of different text types. We will begin by exploring a range of folk tales, inspired by many high-quality texts, such as Torey Hayden's 'The Tiger Child' and Gerald McDermott's 'Anansi the Spider'.

Reading will be embedded throughout our daily learning as it is a fundamental building block to education. It is key that a love of reading is fostered to enable the children to develop a larger vocabulary, better understanding of spelling patterns and most importantly to enjoy reading for pleasure!

Regarding spelling, we will strive to ensure the children are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to spot patterns in the English language, make 'best bets' at unknown spellings, and to correct incorrect spellings. We will build upon the year 3 spelling list, whilst incorporating longer, more challenging spellings.

Mathematics – Arithmetic, Fluency and Number

In maths, we will be ensuring that the children have a secure understanding of place value before using those skills in more complex skills based around addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. These skills will revolve around developing their fluency as well as their problem solving and reasoning skills. These will be based around real world applications and enable them to put their learnt skills into practise. We will be taking our time with this initial topic as the rest of mathematics relies heavily upon a firm grasp of this.

Each week, we will be embedding arithmetic/mental fluency into lessons which focuses on children knowing, understanding and applying key mathematical facts (number bonds and multiplication facts). The knowledge learnt in this lesson will carry through into children's morning work and further mathematics lessons.

Wider Curriculum

Below you can see an outline of the topics we will be covering throughout the first two terms of the year. Some personal highlights of mine include Tag Rugby, Watercolour artwork and the Anglo-Saxons, all of which allow the children to experience a wider range of subjects and begin to find personal interests that they may wish to continue to explore outside of the classroom.

As noted above, if you have any further questions about any of the topics mentioned in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2
Geography	Climate & Weather	
History		Anglo-Saxons & Scots
RE	What is the Trinity? & What is the importance of Christmas?	
Science	Living Things and Their Habitats	
Computing	Computing Systems and Networks	
PE	Tag Rugby & Athletics	TBC
PSHE	Families & Relationships	
Art/DT	Watercolour	Construction
Music	The Recorder	
French	All About Me!	