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 @westfields\_jun

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10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new and very exciting year at Westfields! It has been, and remains, a rather unusual time but may we begin by saying we are excited to have the children back in school and enjoying our rich and broad curriculum opportunities as our topic web highlights. We hope that you all enjoyed the summer break and are feeling well rested! We have certainly enjoyed our first week in Year 4, setting new expectations and getting to know each other. We hope that this letter provides some key information about what the children will be learning this term as well as a few reminders to help the term run smoothly. Thinking ahead to particular highlights, our Ancient Greek Creative Day will be on 14<sup>th</sup> October. We will of course provide you with further details in due course but please put this very exciting date in your diary!

### Home Learning

As in Year 3, the children will continue to have one piece of home learning set each week, alternating between a grammar and maths focus. Maths home learning will be set via MyMaths. All children should have their login details in their reading records however, if you do not have, or have misplaced this, please contact your child's class teacher through the school office who can organise this for you. Home learning tasks will be set on Thursdays and will be uploaded to the relevant sections of ClassDojo; activities will be based upon work already covered in class so will link to and build upon their current learning. These tasks should take approximately 20 minutes to complete but if your child is struggling with any specific task, they (or you!) can speak to their class teacher in order to get some extra support; we recommend they do this before the task is due in each Tuesday to support subsequent learning.

### Spellings

New for this year, across the school we will be using Spelling Shed, which is a web-based platform, to support the learning of spelling rules and patterns. Spellings will be set each **Tuesday** and will be tested on the following **Monday**. Within class, the children will be taught the spelling rules and patterns prior to being set spelling words to practise. The children's spellings will be set via Spelling Shed and they will be able to practise their words online by completing a variety of exciting games. Similarly to TTRockstars, the children will also have the opportunity to earn points, compete in leagues and edit their individual avatar! The children will be shown in school how to use Spelling Shed and their usernames and passwords will be sent home shortly in order for them to begin practising! Please be aware, the use of Spelling Shed through Chrome, Safari or any web browser is free. Alternatively, there is a Spelling Shed app available however this will incur a one-off download charge.

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If you have any problems with online access, please contact us so that we can support you. We are looking forward to this new and exciting way of supporting our children's spelling development!

### Reading

Please ensure your child reads regularly throughout the week as reading really is the key to success across the curriculum. For every child, we ask them to read at home at least 5 times a week for a minimum of 10 minutes. This does not include reading they have done at school. Please sign reading records twice each week as it is important to continue to develop intonation, expression and fluency even if your child is already a free reader we ask some time should be spent reading aloud to an adult at home. Developing comprehension skills are also paramount so when your child reads, please ask them questions about the plot, character and setting, ask them to make predictions and ask why characters feel or have acted in a particular way. If you require any further guidance, please just ask or look at the parent support booklet on our website (to be found under the Parent tab; Parent Guides and Workshops; Reading) or have a chat with your child's class teacher.

### Mental Maths

As in Year 3, we will be continuing to progress through the *Mathmagicians' Guild* and your child will continue to be tested weekly. We hope everyone will continue to access TT Rockstars at home at least 3 times a week for 10 minutes. As well as forming vital building blocks for many areas of our Maths lessons, your child will also be taking part in a National Standardised Multiplication Times Tables Check (more details to follow in due course) which assesses your child's multiplication knowledge. Therefore, it is especially important to ensure your child is confident and fluent with the times tables and division facts for all times tables up to 12 x 12. Please see your child's class teacher if this is something you feel your child will need more support with.

### PE kits

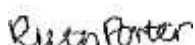
Whilst there are timetabled sessions for PE each week, it is vital children have their PE kits in school **every day**, in case arrangements need to be changed. It would help greatly if you could also ensure every item is clearly named so any misplaced items are returned as soon as possible.

Finally, please remember we highly value the partnerships between school and home so please do not hesitate to contact us through the school office or ClassDojo if you have any queries. We hope you are able to join us for our brief 'Meet the Teacher' session on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 2.45pm.

Kind regards,



Mr Medwell  
Year 4 Team Leader,  
Class Teacher &  
Assistant Headteacher



Miss Porter  
Class Teacher



Mrs Dobson  
Class Teacher



Miss Bland  
Class Teacher

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