

# STAPLEFORD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bar Lane Stapleford Cambridge CB22 5BJ

Part of Anglian Learning

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to Year 4! I would like to say thank you to your children for a very busy and productive first term; they have worked hard and settled really well.

## Topic

This half term our topic is Invading Britain, What changed in Britain after the Anglo-Saxon invasion? As part of this, we are hoping to arrange a visit to West Stow Anglo Saxon village, but this is likely to take place after the half term. Please see the Topic Web for further details of the intended learning opportunities.

## Reading

Reading is an important part of the school curriculum and at Stapleford we encourage all opportunities to enjoy books both at school and at home. Your child will be given a reading book from the class reading corner (or, if they prefer, from home) to keep in school, but will also be encouraged to read at home. Please listen to your child read at home.

## Homework

Children will be given a menu of homework ideas. The menu is split into the subject areas of English, Maths, Science, Arts and History/Geography and has two or three options for each area. Every week your child should complete one piece of homework of their choice and bring it into school. These should be completed in their homework books, which will go home on a Friday and should be handed in by the following Wednesday. You will also find logins for Mathletics, Rockerbox and TimesTable Rockstars in their homework books.

## Times Tables

Regular practice of times tables at home is very important, as it helps children build fluency and confidence in multiplication. When times tables are secure, children can focus more easily on problem-solving and reasoning in maths, rather than working out basic facts. Short, frequent practice at home can make a big difference and supports the work we do in school.

## Spelling

We will teach spelling through sounds (phonemes), syllables, and spelling choices, rather than memorising words alone. We will be using the Jason Wade *Sensible Spelling* scheme, which encourages children to investigate how words work and make sensible spelling choices. This approach helps children build confidence and become Brave Spellers.

*Sensible Spelling focuses on understanding how words are built from sounds and syllables, so children can make sensible choices when spelling unfamiliar words.*

Each week, children will practise 10 spelling words, with 2 additional challenge words for those who are ready. These spellings help us to notice patterns, sounds, and progress over time, rather than to catch children out.

You are welcome to explore these spellings at home by talking about sounds and syllables if you wish. However, please be assured that there is no expectation for you to practise at home.

### **Other**

Birch class will be doing PE on **Tuesdays and Thursday** during the Spring Term, and your child should come dressed in their PE kits on these days. Our moat time will be flexible to fit in with our learning, so it would be great if children could keep a pair of Wellingtons in school.

Pencil cases are encouraged at this time but please ensure it is **small enough to fit into their trays** and it (and its contents) should be clearly labelled with their name. Please avoid bringing in precious items as we cannot guarantee that they will not get lost or broken.

Mrs Williams will be working as a Teaching Assistant in the class on Monday and Tuesday afternoons, where she will be listening to readers and carrying out targeted intervention work. We are also very lucky to have Mrs Rogers supporting the class on Monday mornings, as well as Izzy Storer, who joins us on a less regular basis, both as volunteers. Their support is greatly valued and makes a real difference to the children's learning.

As spring approaches, we would love the opportunity to spend more time in the class garden. If any parents or carers with green fingers would like to volunteer some time to support the class with gardening, we would be very grateful.

Any further information will be communicated to you as it arises throughout the year through ParentMail and the class WhatsApp group, however please feel free to come and talk to me after school or drop me an email if there is something you wish to discuss

Best wishes,

Anna Storer