



# Stone

Church of England Combined School

Headteacher: Deborah Morrison B.Ed.Hons Oxon  
Stone Church of England Combined School  
Oxford Road, Stone, Aylesbury, Bucks HP17 8PD  
Tel: 01296 748 340 Fax: 01296 748 483  
Website: [www.stone.bucks.sch.uk](http://www.stone.bucks.sch.uk)  
Email: [office@stone.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@stone.bucks.sch.uk)

## Building stepping stones to success



*Design adapted from the children of Stone C of E School*

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 4! We hope that you all had a wonderful summer holiday and are ready for all the excitement that Year 4 has to offer. In this letter we hope to give you and your child an introduction to the next stage of their learning journey.

Hopefully, it will answer any questions you may have about the routines and learning activities that your child will be engaged in during the next academic year. However, please do come and ask us if there is anything that we have not included that you would like to know.

### The Year 4 team

Miss Jenkins is the class teacher and over the week we are lucky enough to have Miss Berridge supporting us in class.

### Homework

Homework is very important this year. The children will be given home learning activities weekly. Homework is given out on a Friday, and is due back in on the following Wednesday morning. Your child will be given one home learning book, in which all tasks will be written. Your child needs to take responsibility for his/her learning, developing a routine and making sure that home learning is not left to the last minute. Children should be able to complete their home learning independently and it should not take them more than one and a half hours.

Every week, your child will receive spelling words and multiplication tables to learn, as well as two tasks that will be related to their work in class. The children will have a multiplication test every Friday. There will be a spelling test every Wednesday. The spelling test will be done at the back of your child's home learning book, in order for you to monitor their progress and recap any words of which they are unsure.

Homework will continue to be sent out via Parentmail, apart from spellings which will be stuck in homework books every week. If you require a hard copy of the homework, please let Miss Jenkins know.

### Reading

**Reading is an important part of your child's home learning** and they should be reading for at least 15 minutes daily. Your child should be encouraged to read for pleasure at home and make time for reading a variety of texts: stories, information texts, magazines, newspapers, poetry, recipes, instructions, lists, cartoons, brochures, etc.

This year we will continue using the reading record booklet where you and your child will be encouraged to write comments about their reading progress. Even if your child is a free reader, it is still really important for them to read aloud regularly in order to discuss the content of what they have read. This will improve their comprehension, broaden their vocabulary and allow them to develop their skills of empathy and deduction. We would appreciate **at least** one comment by an adult weekly and for the children to record what they have read each day.

As a class, we will visit our fantastic library every **Thursday**. In this time, the teachers and teaching assistants will be supporting the children in selecting appropriate books. Each week your child will bring home a library book that they can swap in weekly library sessions. Once they have completed the grey book band books, they will be considered 'Free readers' and will be expected to read a book of their own choice at home. We hope that this will encourage the children to love reading as much as we do!

Guided reading will take place over the course of the week. The children will take part in a range of reading activities and will read with an adult once a week.

*"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" Philippians 4:3*



## **Mathematics**

In Year 4, the children need to develop confidence in using and applying their knowledge of multiplication and related division facts. It is important that the children gain quick mental recall of multiplication facts, so that they are free to concentrate on applying them in a range of contexts, e.g. tackling long multiplication and division related problems, working out averages, carrying out work on fractions, calculating area and volume, etc.

It is important, as they learn their tables, that they develop an understanding of the link between multiplication and division, so when learning their tables they need to know that while  $7 \times 3 = 21$  it is also the case that  $21 \div 3 = 7$  and  $21 \div 7 = 3$  etc. By the end of year 4 the children should be confident in their multiplication and division facts up to  $12 \times 12$ .

The children can learn their tables any way that suits them. This could include:

- learning by rote i.e. saying the table over and over again, as a song;
- trying to identify patterns in the answers, then working out a general rule that will apply to that times table, e.g. all answers in the 5 times table end in a 5 or a 0, and the inverse for the operation of division, any number that ends in a 5 or a 0 can be divided by 5;
- using a 100 square to plot patterns;
- spotting doubles, e.g.  $3 \times 8 = 24$ , 6 is double 3, so  $6 \times 8 = \text{double } 24 = 48$
- using fingers to do 'tricks' (e.g. 9 x table)
- answering quick fire questions in random order;
- they could tell you different ways of saying  $7 \times 5$  (e.g. 7 times 5 equals 35, 7 multiplied by 5 equals 35, the product of 7 and 5 is 35)

Once your child has become more confident about the multiplication facts, they could be asked division facts and apply relevant calculations in real life situations. To further challenge your child, you could ask him/her questions like 'What is  $6 \times 40$  or  $6 \times 400$ ? (once they know  $6 \times 4 = 24$ ). You could discuss how they worked out their answer when dealing with 10's, 100's, 1000's etc.

## **PE**

Each week the children will have two PE sessions, one will be on Monday and Friday afternoons this half term. They will be required to bring in the correct PE kit and jewellery may not be worn in these sessions.

## **Creative curriculum**

Our topic this half term is 'Scrumdiddliumptios'. In Design and Technology the children will be designing and making a savoury pie for and catering for our Mad Hatter's Tea Party on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018. They will be choosing their ingredients and preparing it themselves. You will be asked for a small voluntary contribution towards ingredients. This topic links to our Science focus which will be on the human body. We will be learning about teeth and the digestive system. Both subjects will address the topic of healthy eating.

## **'All about me' display**

In order for every child to feel valued and to improve their speaking and listening skills, there will be a display dedicated to them for a week. They will need to make a poster telling the other children anything about themselves (e.g. if they have siblings, their hobbies, where they come from; other languages spoken, if they have pets, etc.). If your child has been chosen to complete the 'All About me' display they will not need to complete the usual written home learning task for that week but they will still need to learn their spelling words and times tables.

If you have any queries about anything we have mentioned in this letter or indeed anything else you would like to talk about, please feel free to see us in the playground after school.

Kind regards

Laura Jenkins