

Parent Information for Y4 Merlins

Welcome to Merlins with Mr. Barwick

Teachers

Mr. Barwick (class teacher)

Teaching Assistants: Mrs. Wood (am); Mrs. Marlee (pm)

Timetable

The timetable shows how we plan to organise the teaching of the 2014 Primary Curriculum subjects. Please check the timetable, and ensure that your child has their PE kit in school on relevant days.

PE will be taught by **Mr. Colbeck** (Thursday) and **Mr. Barwick** (Friday);

Computing will be taught by **Mr. Kinchlea**;

RE will be taught by **Miss Moore**.

Curriculum Plan

Please refer to our Curriculum Plan to see what your child will be covering in each subject this year. Our main topics are the Anglo Saxons and Scots, Vikings, North America, Ancient Egyptians and Coasts.

JONK (Joy of Not Knowing)

JONK is a new whole school approach to learning which was initiated last year and is being continued this year. We are encouraging the children to be good learners through being **curious, creative, collaborative, reflective, resilient and resourceful**.

Groups in Class

Rather than always using set groups within English and Maths, we aim to address each child's individual needs through a combination of whole class, mixed ability and small group teaching.

Homework

Maths will be set on **Wednesdays**. This will be either a worksheet, practical task or online Abacus task.

Maths is due on the following Wednesday.

Spelling tasks will be sent home in a spelling book. **Spelling books are due in on Mondays and the spelling test will be the same day.**

Reading Records must be in school every day please. They will be checked on **Fridays**.

Topic homework will be set each half term (not during holiday time). This will involve a maximum of two ongoing projects per half term, and the amount produced will be determined by the child. Topic homework may include a painting of a Viking longboat, a short research project about the Egyptians or some photos of our coastline.

Please ensure that your child completes their homework. Each piece should take no more than 30 mins. If your child has not completed within this time but tried really hard – they do not need to do any more. Please add a comment if you felt your child struggled with the task so that we can follow up on this.

Reading

Teachers and TAs will listen to your child read **individually as determined by their academic needs**.

All children will participate in **weekly guided reading sessions** where they will read and discuss a text.

The children can choose a book from home, school, the school library or the public library. They are allowed to change their books any day. **Reading Records** are used to keep a record of the books that they

are reading. Please listen to your child read 3 times per week for around 10 minutes per session (more if you wish!) This should be recorded in their Reading Record. Asking your child comprehension questions about plot, setting and characters is incredibly valuable to their progress as skilled readers.

Please ensure Reading Records are in school every day.

Feedback to Children

We will keep you up to date with the children's progress through the marking of their work, discussion and assessments. Assessments include written assessments and maths assessments. The children are familiar with our whole school marking system. When we mark work in English we will highlight positive points in green, and aspects that need to be developed or improved in pink. We mark in purple. The children are also encouraged to respond to our comments and will make corrections and improvements in green pen.

Dress Code

We would much appreciate children arriving at school in the correct school uniform and footwear (please refer to the school prospectus for details). Please also ensure that your child has their **PE Kit** in school all week. Please ensure that long hair is tied back, nails are kept short and only small stud earrings are worn. Pierced ears must be taped for PE.

Equipment

Thank you for the equipment you have sent with your child!

Just a reminder that your child needs the following in a **small pencil case**:

Pencils

Small ruler for underlining

An enclosed sharpener

Rubber

Coloured pencils

Blue handwriting pen (not biro) as the children develop their handwriting they will be increasingly able to use pen. Please send two if possible!

Class Visits

We are planning several visits this year to support and enrich the work being covered in class. Our first visit will take place later this term, when we will visit West Stow. Later in the term we will visit Norwich Cathedral for an RE day. In the Spring Term we will visit Norwich Castle museum to study the Ancient Egyptians. Year 4 will also go to Eaton Vale activity centre for a day in the Summer Term.

Parent Volunteers

We would be most grateful for volunteers. If you see anything on our Curriculum Plan which is related to your own specialism, we would be delighted if you could come and talk to the class!

Appointments with Teachers

We are happy to meet with parents after school – with the exception of Mondays and Thursdays as they are staff meeting nights. If possible please make an appointment in advance. We can also discuss any queries or concerns you may have over the phone.

There is an **information board** outside the office to keep you informed of what is happening in school.

We will look forward to getting to know you and your child much better over the course of the academic year!

Mr. Barwick