

# **Knutsford Primary Academy**

## **Welcome to Year 4**

# Staff

- Teachers: Miss Davis and Mrs Elliott
- PPA teachers: Mrs Freeman & Mr Smith and Ms Cooper
- TAs: Mrs Jahangir and Mrs Hodge

Your child may also come into contact with the following members of staff who work across the school:

- Mrs Denbigh (Inclusion Coordinator)
- Mrs McConnon and Mrs Townsend (Inclusion Support Workers and THRIVE practitioners)

# Daily routines

- The children should arrive by 8.45am each day and, when the whistle blows, line up on the lower key stage 2 playground. If your child is late they will need to sign in at the office so they can be registered.
- At the end of the day the children will be accompanied by the teacher and they will be supervised by a member of staff until they are collected.
- There are separate KS1 and KS2 playtimes Monday to Thursday. Our playtime is at 10.45 and lasts 15 minutes. In Key Stage Two the children are encouraged to bring in their own healthy snack which should be fresh fruit or vegetable only.
- Lunchtime is at 12.15 - 1.20.

# Equipment

- We provide all the stationery your child needs for school but your child may choose to bring a **small** pencil case with basic equipment such as pens/pencils to write with and colouring pencils. Please do not allow your child to bring scissors and glue to school. There is no need for expensive stationery.
- If your child chooses to bring a bag to school it must be small enough to hang in the cloakroom. Some children put all of their equipment, including PE kit and trainers, in 1 large bag and carry it to and from school each day – there is no need for this, especially if it doesn't fit on their peg.
- A small water bottle can be bought for £2.50 from the school office. Expensive varieties are not necessary.

# Topics

The main topics the children will be learning about are:

Autumn 1	Volcanoes and Earthquakes
Autumn 2	Animals and their habitats
Spring 1	Ancient Egypt
Spring 2	States of Matter
Summer 1	The Anglo Saxons
Summer 2	Sound and Electricity

Each half term you will receive a curriculum newsletter which outlines what we are aiming to teach in each subject.

# PE

- We have PE on Tuesday and Thursday
- PE kits should be in school every day in case of unavoidable changes to the timetable. Long hair should be tied back, and earrings should be covered or removed. Girls who wear tights will need socks to change into.
- The main focus of PE each term is as follows:

Autumn 1	Balances in gymnastics and ball games
Autumn 2	Hip hop dance and football skills.
Spring 1	Balance and changing direction and then tag rugby.
Spring 2	A dance based on Egypt and striking and fielding
Summer 1	Rolling in gymnastics and then athletics
Summer 2	Dance and then athletics

# Reading

- Reading is the key to success in many areas of the curriculum and we give it a very high priority. In Y4 pupils are required to make at least four entries in their reading record each week.
- Reading records should be brought into school every day and taken home so the children can record the pages that they have read. We want to develop a joy of reading and would ask you to encourage your child to read from a broad genre.
- The children are able to choose books from the class reading area and also the school library.
- We do also encourage the children to bring in books from home or from the library as their class reading book. However they must show it to an adult first, so that we can ensure it is of a suitable level of challenge.

# Reading

We encourage pupils to read from a broad range of genres.

Pupils should tick off the genres on the Book Bingo sheet at the back of their reading record.

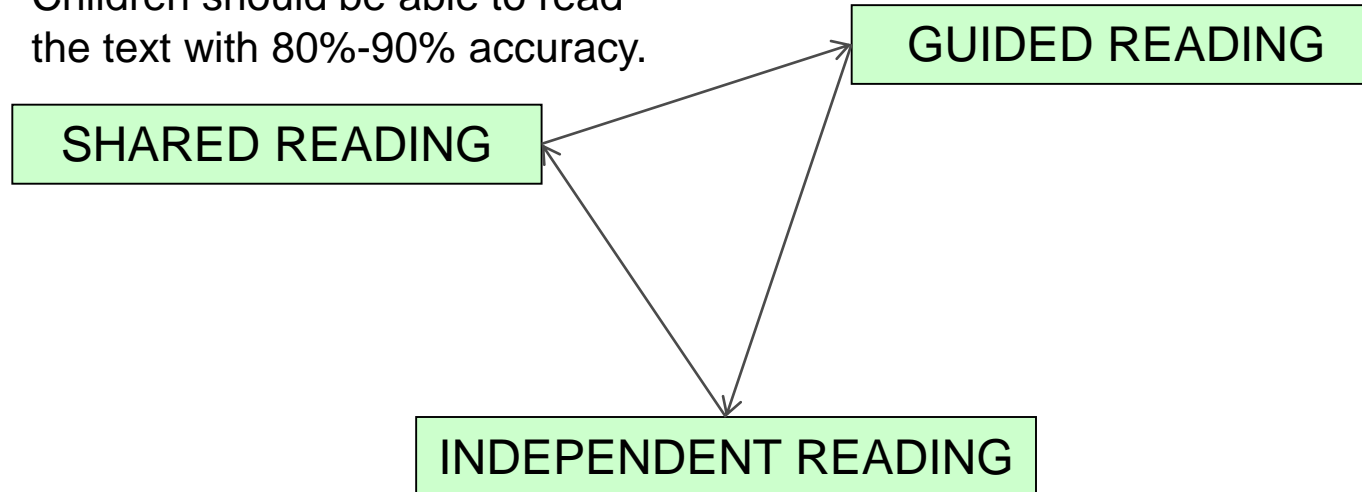
## Book Bingo

Imaginary worlds	Adventure Stories	Science Fiction
Newspapers	Extreme Earth – Natural Disasters	Endangered Animals
Scary Story	Your Pick! Fiction	Classic Novel
Humour	Your Pick! Non-Fiction	Poetry

# Reading

Shared reading: the adult reads and makes overt what good readers do through modelling good reading behaviours. Children should be able to read the text with 80%-90% accuracy.

Guided reading is the main teaching slot. Children should be able to read the text with 90-94% accuracy.



Independent reading: children read with little adult help. They should be able to read the text with 95% - 100% accuracy.



In year 4, all pupils are expected to take the government multiplication check. This will test them on all of their tables up to the 12 times tables.

Please encourage your child to use Times Tables Rock Stars at home, as it is a motivational and challenging way to develop and consolidate times tables knowledge. This can be downloaded as an app for tablets and phones.

If you need your login details please ask your child's class teacher.

Remember it is better to play more often and for less time. For example, 3 or 4 times a week for 15 minutes, than in one big go!

# Knutsford University



We are delighted to announce the return of Knutsford University! Knutsford University will take place on four Friday afternoons in November and then again in the Spring and Summer Terms.

## **How do parents find out about courses?**

Parents are informed that the university is about to take place and what the courses are for that term in the Friday newsletter. At the same time Mrs Harding will ask if any parents would like to become involved by helping out. (Some parents even run courses for us and these have often been amongst the most popular.)

# Knutsford university

Knutsford University is a special time (and for many children their favourite time) when the children get the chance to follow a course that really interests them for four weeks, often working with teachers and children from different year groups.

## **How does it work?**

Every semester the children are shown the selection of courses to choose. There is a range to suit as many tastes as possible using both outside providers, staff from school and ex members of staff.

The children then have time to decide what they are most interested in and have to make a selection of four courses.

Mrs Harding then has the mammoth task to ensure everyone gets one of their choices. (She nearly always manages it!)

# Knutsford university

## **What are the choices?**

The courses change every term, but we try to listen to what the children are interested in and to feedback from parents and staff to create a good range. This ranges from PE, through art and crafts to more academic topics like 'Tudor Kings and Queens'. There are usually about 12 subjects a term.

## **Can a child repeat a course?**

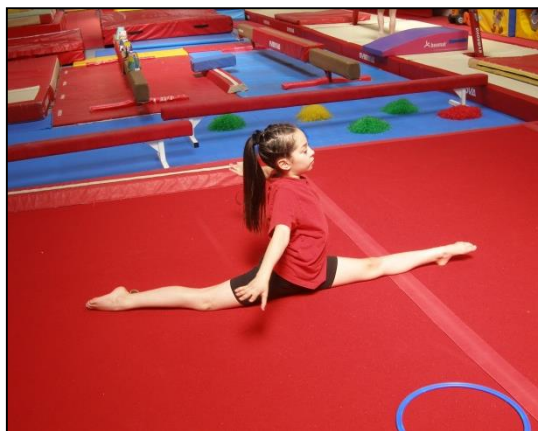
Some courses are suitable to be repeated – for instance, several children are now expert knitters and artists.

Sometimes it depends on the content of the course – for instance one coding course was identical to a previous course but on a different occasion, different skills were covered.

Some courses cannot be repeated, usually because they are massively over subscribed. Professional cookery and woodwork are examples of this.

It is always made clear for the children when they choose which courses are suitable to repeat or not.

# Knutsford University



# Home learning

- Our format includes the rapid recall of multiplication tables up to 12 x 12, and the associated division facts. Along with this will be two levels of maths questions to choose from, that relate to the current week's strategies.
- In literacy there are grammar and punctuation activities that will tie in with the year 4 curriculum objectives. Spelling will be split into two sections, Lower Key Stage 2 common exception words and the year 4 spelling patterns from the curriculum. These will still total 10 spellings altogether.
- The handwriting homework is part of the spelling and written tasks.
- Homework is to go out on a Friday and it to be returned on Wednesday.

We would appreciate your support with homework:

- encourage your child to look after their home learning books/sheets and take a pride in their work
- provide a suitable place, away from TV, mobile phones and other distractions, in which home learning can be completed, whether working alone or with an adult
- monitor home learning and inform the class teacher if an issue arises
- support your child to plan their time and meet deadlines

# School uniform



We expect all children to wear the correct school uniform at all times, including for PE:

<http://www.knutsford.herts.sch.uk/parent-info/school-uniform/>

All items should be clearly marked with your child's name.

**Lost property!** We endeavour to return named items but most items in lost property are not named.



# E-safety

E-safety is of paramount importance in today's world and it forms an ongoing theme in our computing curriculum in each year group. The e-safety codes we use with the children, along with other information you may find useful, can be viewed on the school website.

<http://www.knutsford.herts.sch.uk/children-learning/e-safety/>

Please be aware of what your child accesses on computers, tablets and phones at home. Unless you have the appropriate controls in place your child will be able to access more than cute kitten videos on You Tube.

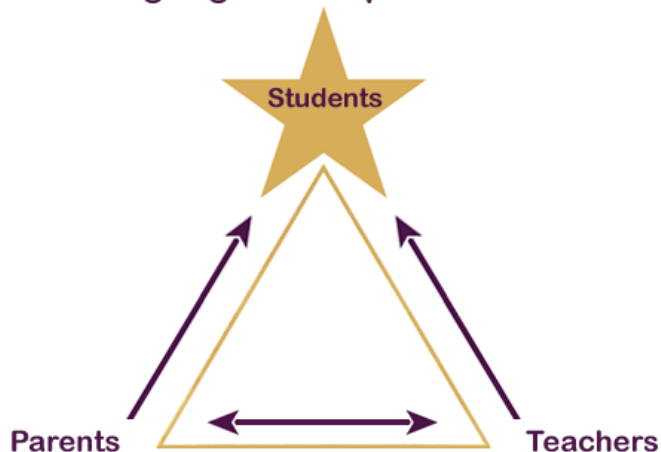


# Communication

Communication is a two way process. Please do not hesitate to talk to us if you have any queries or concerns and we will do our very best to help in any way we can.

And vice-versa, we will contact you if we have any queries or concerns regarding your child's learning or behaviour.

Working together equals success!



When teachers and parents work together,  
students can reach for the stars!

How to contact us:

- Note to school with child
- Mornings (for very quick messages)
- After school
- Leave a message with admin staff and we will contact you
- Parent teacher consultation evenings

# Parental help

- Do you have any spare time?
- We are always looking for parents to come in and help, preferably on a regular basis. If you have half an hour to spare you could hear children read or help them learn their spellings, number facts or multiplication tables. Have a chat with the class teacher if you would like to offer regular help.
- If you can't help regularly, maybe you have knowledge or a skill related to an aspect of the curriculum we cover this year. Have a look at the half termly curriculum newsletters and let us know if you can help that term.
- Regular parental help is subject to satisfactory DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks being carried out. Further information is available from Mrs Allnutt in the school office.



# Questions?

