

Monday 5th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to welcome you back to a new term and a new year. The Year 4 team are looking forward to a fun packed half term as we explore our new topics. Please see our learning jigsaw for further information about what we will be studying this half term.

We are all looking forward to attending the Young Voices concert in Birmingham on January 26th, which will be a truly memorable experience for all the children!

As part of our History learning we will have a 'Roman Wow Day' during the week beginning February 9th (details to follow). The children will have the option to come to school dressed up as Ancient Romans.

TTRockstars

By the end of Year 4, children should be able to recall all times tables from 2s – 12s by the end of Year 4. A sound times table knowledge supports children in their Maths lessons and in everyday life. Engaging in 10 minutes per week on the Times Table Rockstars (TTR) program reinforces children's recall of tables and supports them in learning any that they do not know yet. If children in Year 5 or Year 6 have not 'gone green' on their TTR chart, it is recommended that they practise for 5-10 minutes daily to support them in catching up. We see that children who have a secure times table knowledge tend to find the transition to high school maths far easier.



NumBots

Numbots is a sister program to Times Table Rockstars. It is aimed at supporting children in developing number recognition and addition and subtraction skills. We aim for all children to complete this program by the end of Year 2. This supports their mental arithmetic skills. Children have time in school to access their Numbot account but engaging with this at home too supports children greatly.

Reading

In Key Stage 2, reading at home is highly important to ensure children are prepared for the academic demands of our lessons in school. Children are expected to read at home a minimum of 4 times a week and record this on Boom Reader. When you get a chance, please check how many home reads have been logged this year. At this point in the academic year, your child should have read around 50 times. Thank you to those of you who regularly engage with this; it really does make such a difference! Your child's log in details remain the same but if you require another copy of these, please let me know.



Spelling

It is important to practise spellings little and often – it helps with so many different areas of the curriculum and improves children's confidence recording their learning. Your child should be very familiar with their

Graffiti Spelling book which should be brought between home and school daily. In these books, you will find the weekly homework sheets which provide you with the list of focus spellings which will be tested regularly in class.



PE

We will be having swimming lessons each **Wednesday** so please remember kit on these days. It is fine for the children to wear their swimming costumes under their PE kits for ease of getting changed at the pool. Please remember to send them in with clothes they'll need for after swimming.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to remind you that I am always available for a chat about anything regarding your child's schooling, no matter how big or small. Just contact the office, catch me at the end of school or email me and I will get in touch at the earliest opportunity.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'A. Gemmell'.

Mrs Gemmell and the Year 4 team