Year 3 and 4 curriculum meeting



2026 - 2027

School website:

www.st-stephens.bexley.sch.uk

Parents > Help for Parents

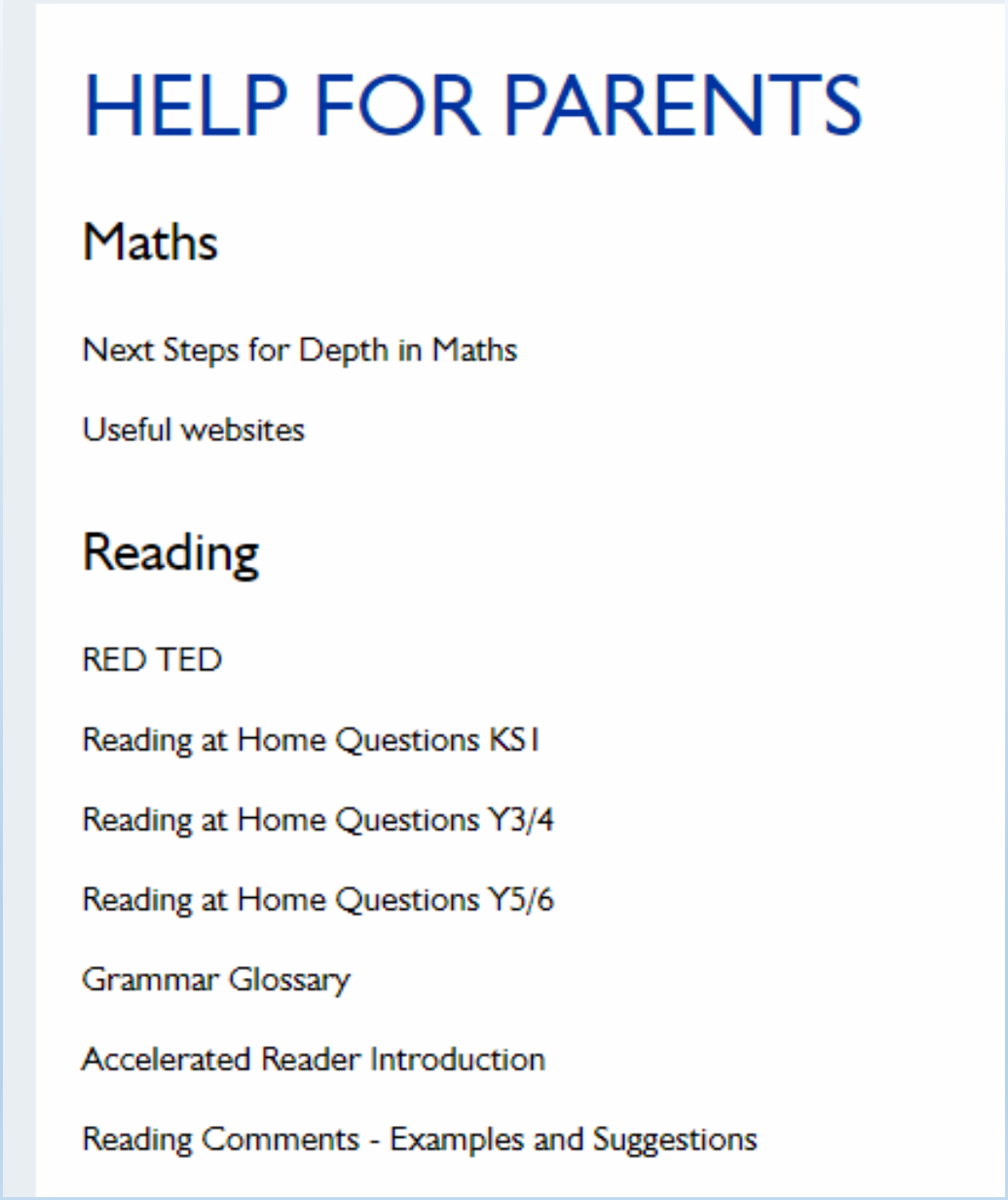
X:
@ststephenscps

Instagram:

@ststephens93

Email:

admin@st-stephens.bexley.sch.uk



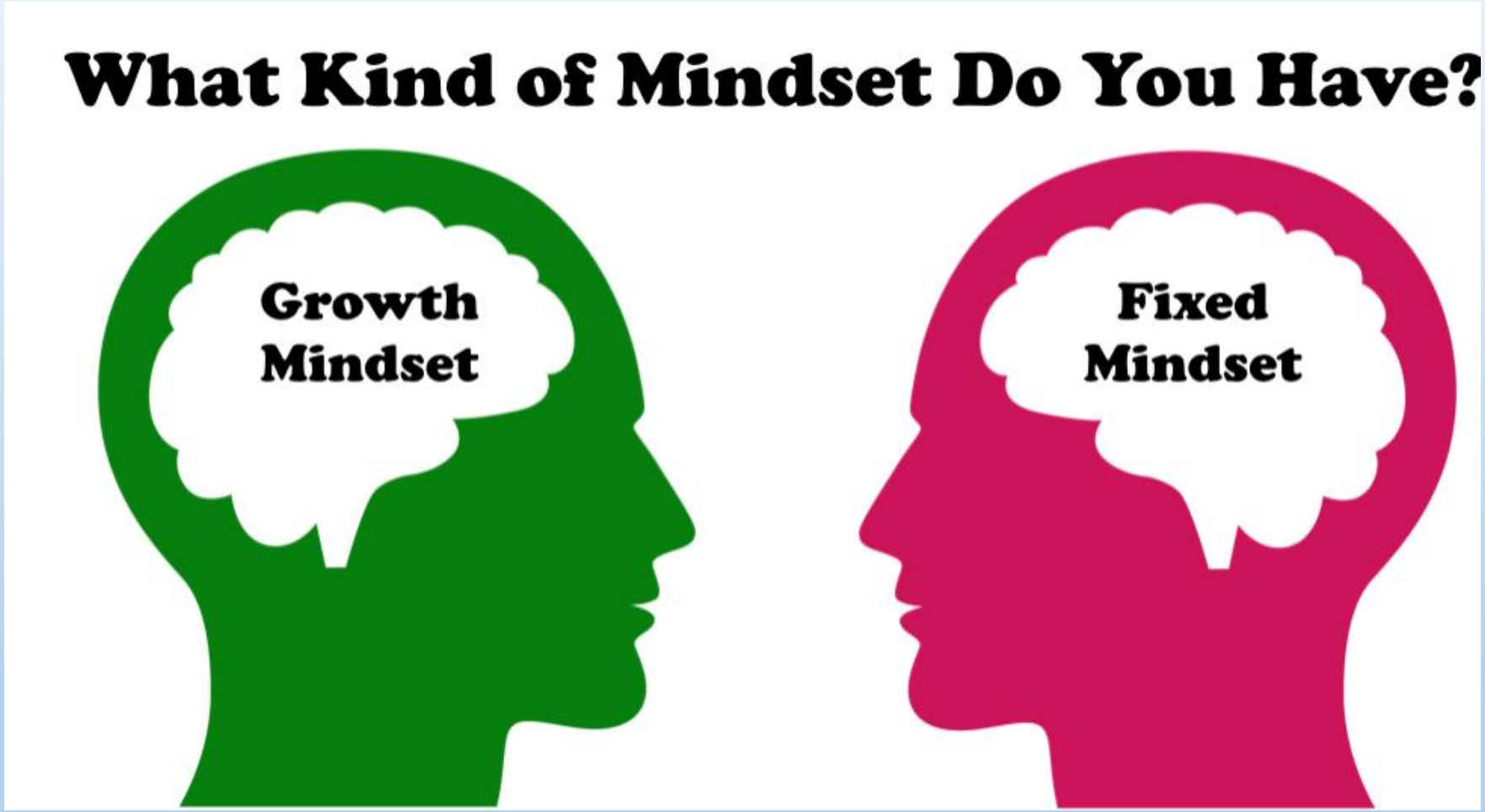
Attendance and Punctuality

It is vital that children attend school and are on time and are collected on time at the end of the day.

Being late can cause anxiety for children, normal morning routines have already been completed and lessons have already begun.

Research has shown that a child who is 5 minutes late every day loses 3 days of learning.

Being 10 minutes late each day is a loss of 6.5 days of learning.



It is important for adults at home to be enthusiastic about learning and constantly encourage positive attitudes to learning.

Maths

Why do we teach Maths Mastery?

- Engaging
- Success in mathematics for every child
- Closes the attainment gap
- Each lesson focuses on:
  mastering mathematical thinking, language and understanding
- Children think like mathematicians

How are the lessons structured?

- *Daily Arithmetic - St Stephen's adaptation*

- Do Now
- New Learning
- Talk Task
- Develop Learning
- Independent Task
- Plenary

Top Tips for Maths at home

Maths is all around us. Try to involve your children in maths as much as you can:

- Shopping (money, 4 operations, fractional discounts)
- Telling the time
- Cooking (time, measurement, fractions)

- Encyclopaedia pages

Year 4 Multiplication Check

7th June - 18th June

- Government test in June
- Purpose is to determine whether your child can fluently recall their times tables up to 12
- Run in school
- 25 questions
- 6 seconds per question
- Additional access arrangements available at teacher discretions
- Scores shared with Summer reports

What can you do to help?

Practise times tables recall regularly at home

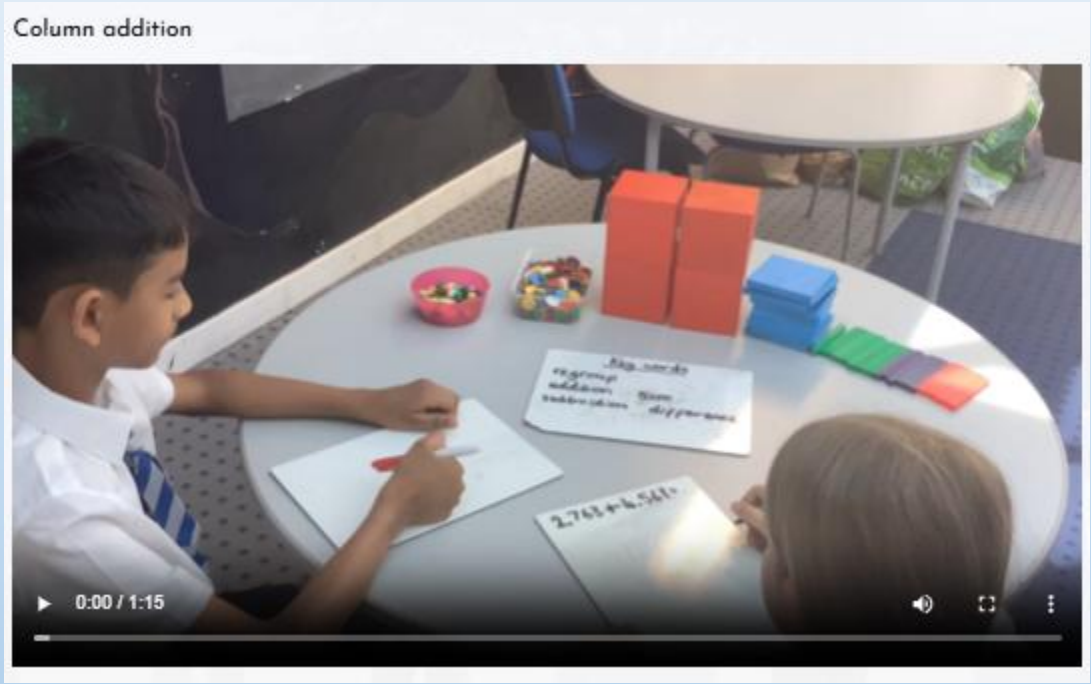
Encourage children to practise on 'Soundcheck' on TTRockstars.

Never too early to start!

https://ttrockstars.com/home

Helpful Home Videos





Reading

Accelerated Reader™

- **Star Reader Test** gives children a suitable ‘band’ of books to choose from
- Reading **quiz (not a test)** on completion of each book with aim to score **80% or over**
- Children move up to the next level if they achieve consistently good results
- Your child may not have started this year on the same level that they ended last year - this is normal.
- Once they reach a level of 4.5 it is considered they are confident enough to choose from any level they like - although we now have more higher level books on the system

power of reading

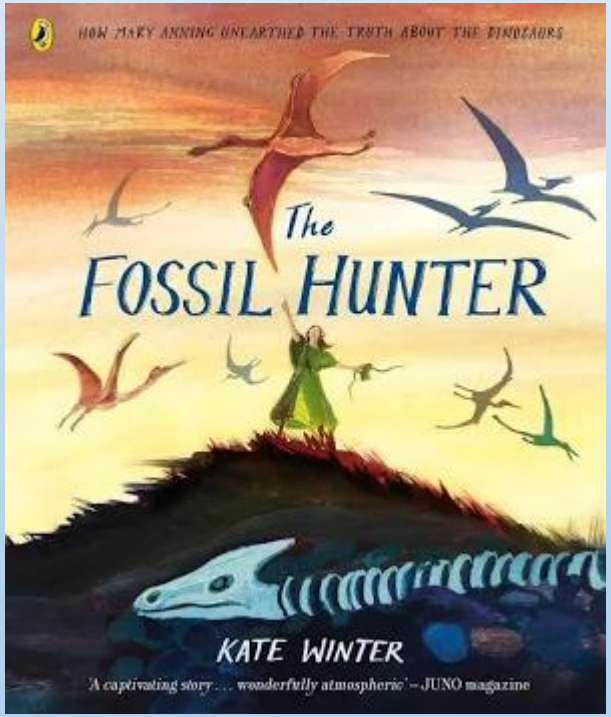
How do we use texts in class?

Literacy is taught through the use of high-quality class texts.

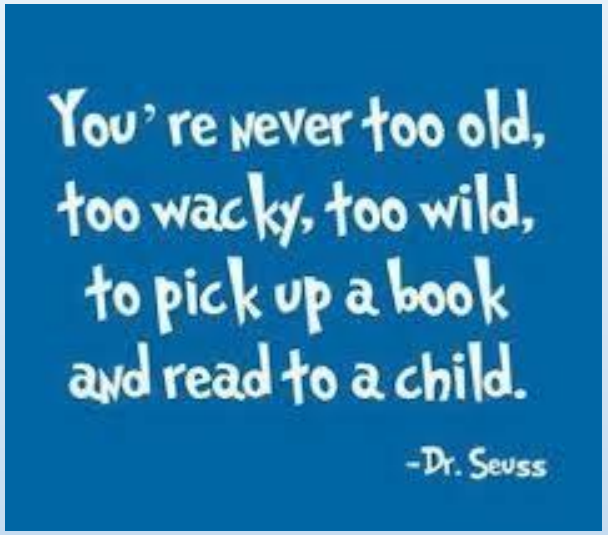
When writing links to reading, there is a greater enthusiasm and greater success.

Grammar objectives are taught through text at the start of each lesson which links to the skills needed for the given writing task.





Reading at home



We will send these home with children this week.

Reading at Home Year 3 & 4

Prediction

- When you first saw this book, even before you read it, what kind of book did you think it was going to be? What made you think this?
- Have you read other books like it?
- Can you make a sensible prediction about what could happen next? Why do you think this?
- What does the person in the story (the narrator) think about the characters?
- Can you predict the ending?
- What is likely to happen if this story is to have a sad/good ending?
- How might the other characters react towards this character and situation?

Inferences

- What words tell you that...?
- How is the character feeling at this point? How do you know?
- What impression do you think the writer wants to give of this character?
- What do these actions tell you about the character?
- How might the other characters react to the character?
- What does the person telling the story think or feel about the characters, does he or she like/ dislike them? How do you know?
- Does the narrator approve/disapprove about things that have happened? How do you know?
- Can you select sentences that justify your opinion of the character?
- Why did the author choose the setting?

Helpful comments for Reading Records

Adult Reading Record Comment Examples:

- We read chapters … to … today. Whilst reading, … was able to recall the story in detail and could predict what might happen next.
- When reading, I asked ... the meaning of the word '..' and she correctly/incorrectly gave a definition.
- Listening to … read, he/she was fluent by noticing the punctuation and was beginning to add expressions by giving voices to the characters.
- Listening to … read, he/she was not very fluent/expressive. I had to remind him/her to …
- After reading together, I ask … the question '…?' and he/she responded.
- We linked this story to … (experiences/other stories).

Child Reading Record Comment Examples:

- I found the new word '…' which means …
- I predict … will happen next in the story because …
- I liked/disliked this story because …
- My favourite part of the story was because …
- If I was this character, I would be feeling … because …
- I think words to describe (*the character)* could be … because …
- This story reminded me of …

Don’t forget….

Reading should be fun!
Reading should be a treat!

Reading should never be a chore!

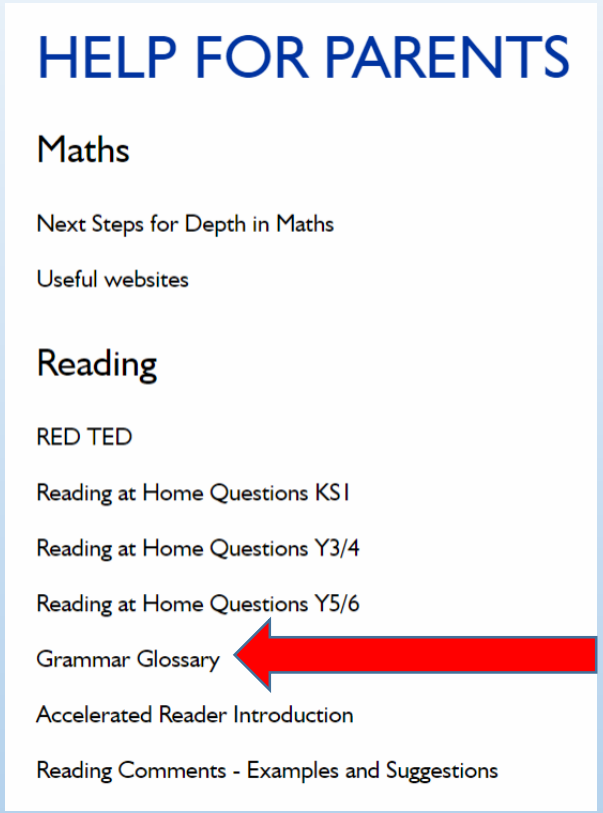
Writing

Spelling, Punctuation, and Grammar

Spelling

- All children are given 10 words to learn each week (taken from the national curriculum spelling list for Year 3 and 4)
- Children must practise at home.
- Spelling lists for each half-term can be found on **Google Classroom** or weekly in their **homework diary.**
- Spelling tests will be weekly on a **Wednesday.**

Grammar Glossary



HELP FOR PARENTS

Maths

Next Steps for Depth in Maths

Useful websites

Reading

RED TED

Reading at Home Questions KS1

Reading at Home Questions Y3/4

Reading at Home Questions Y5/6

Grammar Glossary

Accelerated Reader Introduction

Reading Comments - Examples and Suggestions

Children learn the correct terminology for grammar devices.
Explanations and examples can be found on the website.

Grammar Glossary

This is not an exhaustive list but should cover most primary school grammar and be useful as a quick refresher of the main aspects. Many of them have been adapted from a government publication for schools: Grammar for Writing, Dof E 2000

Abbreviations

An abbreviation is a shortened version of a word or group of words. For example:

Approx. (approximately)
PTO (please turn over)
Etc (et cetera =and so on)

An **abbreviation** becomes an **acronym**
when the initial letters of a group of words and can be pronounced as a single word itself:
e.g. RAM – Random Access memory
Laser – (Light Amplification by the Stimulated Emission of Radiation)

Adjective
An adjective is a word that describes somebody or something.
They can be used before a noun : A **busy** day
bright shirt

Handwriting

- Must be joined up to meet the National Standard
- Fluent
- Daily practice in school

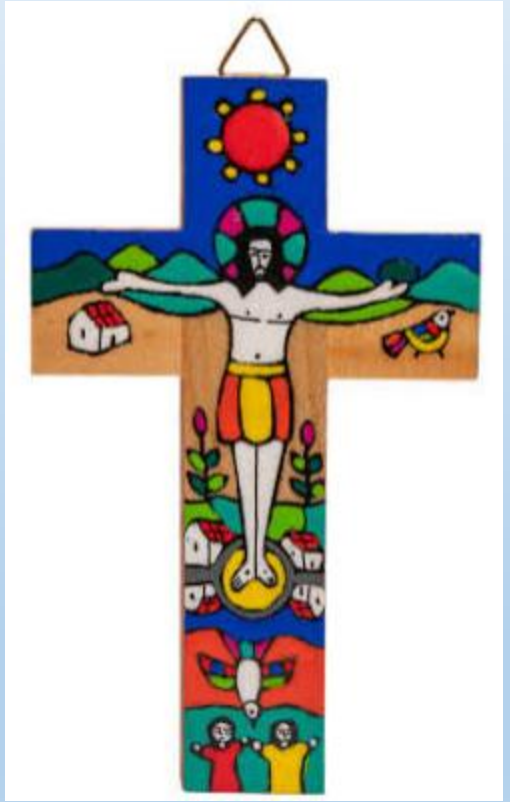
Children will earn handwriting stickers for each piece of writing with handwriting that meets expectation.

This needs to be consistent through all pieces of work and every book.

They will receive their handwriting pen when they have received three stickers.

RE

- Strong focus through all we do.
- Links to other subjects.



How can you get involved?

- Family prayer book is shared around the class.
- Celebration of the Word sessions.
- Year group Mass once a term.
- Encyclopaedia pages.

Topics

Year 3

- Rocks and natural disasters (A1)
- Stone Age (A2)
- European country study (Sp1)
- Magnets (Sp2)
- Shang Dynasty (Su1)
- Plants (Su2)

Year 4

- Romans (A1)
- Sound and electricity (A2)
- Rivers and Indus Valley (Sp1&2)
- States of Matter (Su1)
- Teeth and digestion (Su2)

Encyclopaedia pages

Encyclopaedia Pages

Folders in school.

Copies on the website and on Google Classroom.

Please discuss with your children.

Homework

Year 3

The following homework will be set:

- **Read (10 minutes) and comment every day in Reading Record**

(due Wednesday and returned on Thursday)

- **Spelling practise**

(test on Wednesday)

- **Arithmetic practise**

(test on Friday)

- **Maths activity on Google Classroom**

(due Tuesday and set on Friday)

Tasks should take no longer than 20 minutes to complete. If it is longer, please write a comment on Google Classroom in the private comments section or in their Reading Record to let us know.

Year 4

The following homework will be set:

- **Read (10 minutes) and comment every day in Reading Record**

(due Wednesday and returned on Thursday)

- **Spelling practise**

(test on Wednesday)

- **Arithmetic practise**

(test on Friday)

- **Maths activity on Google Classroom**

(set on Friday and due in the following Tuesday)

- **English, usually a comprehension activity on Google Classroom**

(set on Friday and due in the following Tuesday)

Tasks should take no longer than 20 minutes to complete.
If it is longer, please write a comment on Google Classroom in the private comments section or in their Reading Record to let us know.

*There will be one holiday project to complete across the year too.

Behaviour

1. First verbal warning
2. Second verbal warning
3. Yellow card (minutes deducted from Green time)

A Red card may be instantly given for certain inappropriate behaviours. Parents will be informed.

All cards reset at the end of every day for each child to start fresh each day.

There is opportunity throughout the rest of the day to earn that time back (card moved back to green).

Your support is really appreciated with behaviour and learning!

PE kits

- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain royal blue shorts
- Socks (to swap out from tights)
- Navy or black tracksuit
- Plimsolls – black elasticated or trainers (black or white trainers)
- School P.E. Bag

Children without appropriate PE kit will not participate in PE and a reminder will be sent home. They should have all parts of PE kit at all times of the year.

PE kit information is available on the school website.

No earrings to be worn at school - no participation in PE or playtime.

Year 4 - Sayers Croft Residential

All Year 4 children - Wednesday 20th January to Friday 22nd January

The cost includes all accommodation, tutors, food in abundance, including snacks and drinks, transport to and from the centre and on-site activities.

Please contact Admin/Class Teacher if you have any questions or would like a private conversation regarding medical needs.







Don’t forget!

Opportunities to get involved in school life:

- Event weeks
- Volunteering to talk to the class if you have a specialised career/talent/culture that links to their learning
- Sports day