

# Newnham Croft Primary School

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## Year 4 Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to a new year at Newnham Croft Primary School. It has been great to meet many of you already and get to know our new class. As I'm sure you are aware, Year 4 has two class teachers; Mrs Cullen (who knows the class very well already, having taught them as Year 3s on Fridays last year) will be teaching Monday – Wednesday and Mrs Turner on a Thursday and Friday. Year 4 will also be supported in the mornings by Ms D'Oily and Mrs Wood and some afternoons by Mrs Burke.

The aim of this letter is to let you know a bit more about the areas covered in the Year 4 curriculum as well as some organisational information and diary dates.

Our English this term will follow units from the National Curriculum. English will be linked, where possible, to our main topic for the term which is 'Invaders and Settlers'. Maths will follow the blocks set out by the curriculum and the topic web attached includes details of all objectives covered. The topic web attached gives more detail on these subjects as well as other areas of the curriculum.

As mentioned, our main area of study is the exciting historical topic of Invaders and Settlers. We have started off looking at Celts and will move on chronologically to Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. The children have already shown great enthusiasm for the subject. If this is your area of expertise, or you have access to any resources, it would be great to hear from you.

Most subjects over the term will link with this topic. In Art we'll be working with clay to make replica roman pots and look at mosaic, using computing to support this too. We'll also look at Celtic design and design our own Celtic knots.

In Science we will be covering the national curriculum unit 'Rocks'. We will explore the properties of rocks and look at a cross section of the Earth. We will investigate igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks and how they are formed, sort and test rock samples and identify where and why volcanoes are found.

In R.E. our focus is 'Christian Worship'. We will be discussing how we express our feelings and emotions and the different ways that Christians demonstrate their worship, looking in further detail at early Christians and their beliefs.

Music this term will involve learning about instruments throughout history and focusing on rhythm and music patterns with a focus on playing the ocarina.

PE lessons will be on Fridays this term, focusing on gymnastics. There will also be a lesson taught on Thursdays by Premier Sports with a focus on cross country running for the first half of term and tag rugby for the second half. Your child will be expected to have the correct kit in school at all times and to take part in every lesson: if he or she is unable to do this for some reason please speak to us before school or provide a written explanation. PE kit consists of a clean and named T-shirt, a pair of shorts/jogging bottoms, spare socks and suitable outdoor sports shoes and can be stored in the cloakroom during the week. Children with long hair must also bring in something to tie it back with. No jewellery should be worn in school at any time.

Our Computing work this term will follow the whole school focus of eSafety, which will involve learning about how to deal with the internet in a safe and responsible way. This will include the use of the Starz learning platform where children will be able to experience new ways of accessing and communicating via the internet in the safest possible manner. As well as this, we will be linking as much computing into other subjects, using ipads within the classroom as well as making use of our newly updated ICT suite and ensuring key skills in word processing are kept up.

Year 4 will be learning French this year, which is taught by a secondary teacher from Parkside School. This term they will be looking at numbers, dates and birthdays, celebrations and festivals.

The theme for this half-term's PSHE (personal, social and health education) lessons will be New Beginnings. During the term the children will be exploring how to create a learning environment that helps them to learn in a happy, successful and safe way. They will also learn about the feelings they have when they are happy, sad, scared and excited, and how to manage these feelings. After half term we'll look at 'Getting On and Falling Out' which will lead into Anti-Bullying week in November.

Our new Home Learning framework begins this year, and will be reviewed later on in the year. We would hope that children will read to, or be read to, nearly every day at home for 15 minutes. In class we will be teaching spelling each week, looking at patterns and rules, monitoring progress through regular dictations. Spelling rules and example words to practise at home will be given out on a half termly basis and we encourage you to help your child work through the patterns to support their learning. As well as this, we would welcome any support in helping your child become confident with their times tables. In Year 4 there is an expectation for all children to have a rapid and accurate recall of all multiplication and division facts up to 12x12. We will go through this in class but extra reinforcement is greatly appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or questions about your child's school life. One of us will be in the playground from 8.40am every morning if you want to have a quick chat or to make an appointment for a longer consultation. There is also a "meet the teacher" morning on Thursday 15 September between 9am and 9.30am, which you are most welcome to attend. Formal parent consultations this term will be on the 17 October from 4.00 – 6.30 pm and the 18 October from 1.30 – 4.00 pm. Appointment sheets will be available in school shortly before these consultations. There will also be an Open Afternoon on the 7 November from 3:30-4:30.

There are a few other important dates coming up in the diary. This term Year 4 will visit the Anglo-Saxon village of West Stow on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October and have Bikeability on the 21 October. There will be a cost of £16.50 for these two events but we'll provide more information nearer the time. On Friday 7 October Year 4 have a Forest School session in the Wildlife Area and we also have a Sports Festival on Parker's Piece, organised by Parkside on Tuesday 15 November. In addition we are hoping to explore some historical artefacts at the Fitzwilliam museum and take a tour of the church at St Marks.

We are both greatly looking forward to teaching Year 4 and hope your child will have a fulfilling and fun experience in school.

Best wishes

Judith Cullen and Jo Turner  
Class teachers

