

Dear pupils,

Welcome to Year 4!

We are very excited to be teaching you next year and look forward to welcoming you and getting to know you and your families in the near future.

This year, due to COVID 19, we are unable to have a 'normal' transition but we have provided you with some daily transition tasks which we hope are fun and informative and will help you get to know us a little bit too.

You should know by now that your teaches are Mrs Thomas and Mr Wakelam. Mrs Thomas has been at the Junior school for 6 years and many of you have seen her on the yard or playing the piano. Mr Wakelam is new to South Stanley but is very much looking forward to getting to know you over the next few months. Teaching assistants in Year 4 will be Mr Cain and Mrs Paul.

Our first curriculum topic is 'I am a Warrior'. This is a geography and history-based topic about the Celts and Romans. We will be studying and finding out why the Romans marched through County Durham. In science we will be learning about electricity. This will be lots of practical work around making circuits with bulbs and buzzers and we know you will find this exciting.

Reading is extremely important in Year 4 and by the end of the year we would like as many of you as possible to be really fluent and able to read at a high level of understanding too. Reading Plus is used in year 4 and this is an online reading platform that really helps you to read faster and with a greater understanding. You will be given logins for this and asked to access it at home.

You are asked to bring in your home reading book and reading record **every day**. This will be monitored closely by the class teacher. We would ask that your parents (or other adults), read with you **at least three** times a week for a duration of 15 minutes each session. The reading log should then be signed by an adult.

Children who bring in their book and read three times a week at home regularly, will be awarded an extra playtime each week. Pupils who do not do this will spend the playtime catching up on their reading with an adult in school.

PE kit is provided by school but all pupils need a pair of trainers or gym shoes. Year 4 pupils always go swimming and we hope that this will happen for you over the next year. At the moment we do not know what arrangements have been made for swimming due to the COVID19 regulations but as soon as we know we will be talking to you an your parents about this.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon,

Mrs H Thomas and Mr T Wakelam (Year 4 teachers)