



UPPER SCHOOL Autumn 1

Welcome back! We hope that you and your children enjoyed the summer and are looking forward to the year ahead. It has been delightful to see all the Upper School children back in school and settling into their new classes and lessons. The children have been bringing in their summer reading records and projects they have completed over the holiday. Well done for all the hard work.

Annual Challenge

This year we have introduced our annual challenge which has been uploaded to your child's google classroom. The purpose of our annual challenge is to broaden childrens' experiences in, around and beyond their own address. The children have a list of activities to complete over the academic year. Please note that we are not expecting families to spend a fortune on achieving these activities.

The children will be asked to upload evidence of these activities onto the relevant google classroom assignment. A handout for how to do this has been uploaded to the website. Depending on how many of the activities they complete, the children will either earn a bronze, silver or gold certificate at the end of each academic year.

New PE Kit

It has been lovely to see the pupils in their new PE kits - they look so smart!

Just a reminder that our new PE kits includes:

- **Plain** royal blue shorts or navy-blue tracksuit bottoms (plain navy-blue leggings may be worn if they are changed from leggings worn as part of the full school uniform);
- **Plain** royal blue crew neck t-shirt;
- **Plain** navy-blue tracksuit top, hoodie or sweatshirt;
- **Plain** white or black trainers.

Our PE kit does not need to have the school logo on (unless you want it to) and will be widely available from a range of local retailers. In line with DfE policy, we are actively pursuing uniform options at the lowest possible cost to our families.

Target Setting Day

Target setting meetings will be held on Friday 4th October. Please keep an eye out for your child's letter with further details to follow.

Mrs Walker

Year 4

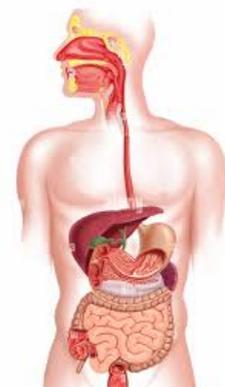
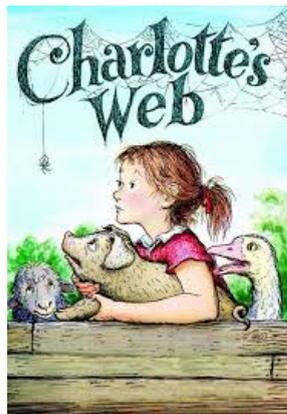
Welcome to the start of a brand new academic year. A chance for us all to begin refreshed and embrace new challenges that lay ahead. Mr. Oakley, Miss McDonnell and Miss Smith are very excited to be in year 4, especially as we all know the children extremely well!

As a year group, we have very high expectations of all the children. As stated, children must come in full school uniform and have the correct PE kit, which was elegantly modelled by Mr. Oakley. Homework must be completed and Reading Journals signed. We cannot stress how important completing homework is.

We have now made a start with teaching the year four curriculum. Maths has been a pleasure to teach as the children are making links to their year 3 learning and using all the concrete resources. We shall be exploring number and place value and this will be followed by addition and subtraction. The children have really enjoyed the start of their Writing lessons. We are focusing on "defeating the monster" stories with a focus on the Castlefield Dragon. Ask your child about the video they saw! Our Science has proved popular as we have started to learn about teeth, eating and digestion. Brace yourself for our Science Workshop, which is on Thursday 26th September (please do give permission and payment on ParentPay).

For our foundation topics, the children will be learning about the Romans and their invasion of Britain and exploring the features of Rome in Geography. Art will be focused on Picasso and in DT we shall be making pizzas. Did the Romans make the first pizza?

Mr Oakley, Miss McDonnell and Miss Smith



Year 5

A warm welcome to the new Year 5 children! We are delighted to see them join the year group and embrace their new roles with increased maturity. Our teaching team this year includes Mrs Keys, Miss Linnell, Ms Farid and Mrs Nawaz.

We have started the term with a fantastic reading text by Roald Dahl: 'The Witches', immerses us into the world of magic and the wicked things these well-disguised witches can do to unsuspecting children. Do you think witches might be real?

In writing, we are learning a warning story off by heart, and then creating our own warning stories inspired by children who choose to ignore them. Feel free to discuss a variety of warnings at home!

Our science lessons will be focusing on the properties and changes of materials and we will put these to good use at the end of the Autumn term, when we celebrate our theme with a 'Witches Day'. We get to dress up, explore materials with 'magic' properties, create potions, write instructions on how to make a revolting soup and make cauldron cakes.

Our first focus in maths is the Place Value of numbers up to 1 million, followed by addition and subtraction. Please remember to complete any homework set daily. There will be a Maths task and an English task set, in addition to 20 minutes of reading with an adult. A regular routine will work wonders!

In other subjects, we look forward to drawing some creative self-portraits in art, inspired by surrealism, and discovering some incredible facts about South America's countries in geography. Do you have some interesting facts to share about South America?

Finally, a reminder that our PE days are Monday and Wednesday. A correct and clearly named PE kit is essential!

Mrs Keys, Miss Linnell and Miss Farid

A periodic table of elements with the title 'PERIODIC TABLE OF ELEMENTS' and 'Chemical Group Block'. The table is color-coded by groups and includes the PubChem logo.

Year 6

Welcome back to the final year of primary school for our Year 6's. The children have had a great start to the year and have hit the ground running, impressing all of the Year 6 team with their attitude and work ethic so far! Miss Price and Miss Chandler have been impressed with the maturity of the children and their "can do" attitude which was clearly evident when sitting their 11+ papers.

We have extremely high expectations of the children in Year 6, as we prepare them for their journey to secondary school. Please ensure children are coming into school with a full correct uniform and PE kit. As we are preparing children for life beyond primary school, the homework they are expected to complete each night has increased from Year 5. Children need to be completing both pieces of maths homework each night, as well as their reading, SPaG and spelling. Getting in a good routine will help them massively throughout the year.

We have begun to teach the Year 6 curriculum and we have been impressed with the children's SPaG skills in writing. We will move on to using these SPaG skills in 2 different writing pieces this half term based on the books we are reading Floodland and Kensuke's Kingdom. We look forward to seeing what the children produce. In maths, we have started with number and place value and will be moving on to securing our knowledge of the four operations. The children have had the opportunity to make their own electrical circuits this week and we are very interested in seeing what they can create as we learn more about electricity.

We have jumped right into our Geography topic of rivers with having a drama afternoon. The children were very engaged coming up with their own sounds and actions to represent a river. As the afternoon went on, they became more confident and we saw them creating freeze frames and mini performances to act out uses of a river and the water cycle. We hope this drama afternoon will deepen their understanding as we dive into the topic. The children have been showing off their gymnastic skills already, revisiting their learning of key moves and practising the different rolls, ask your child so that they can show you at home. We will be practising our portrait skills in art this half term, creating them in the style of M C Escher and we can't wait to put them on display.

Miss Price and Miss Chandler

