



Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Year 4.

A bit about us:

Mrs Kirkham

This is my second year at St. John's but I have taught in Stoke-on-Trent schools for 8 years. I have two children, a four-year-old girl and a nearly two-year-old boy who keep me very busy and when I can, I like to spend my free time running, watching films and dancing.

Mrs Oakden

This will be my sixth year at St. John's! Before teaching, I studied Physics at university, and I worked as a supply chain manager for a cheese company. I have a two-year-old little boy, who is full of energy. In my free time I like eating out, gardening and doing Pilates.

Here is some essential information that you need to know:

- When the children arrive, there will be work set for them to complete during registration. They need to be in school promptly so that we can start work on time.
- **Please make sure that if your child has glasses, they bring them to school. This can significantly hinder their learning if they cannot see properly.**
- **We have a reading a target of 20 to 25 minutes per day.**
- The school day finishes at 3.30pm. We will dismiss the children from the side door when a parent/carer is visible.
- **Homework:**
  - Reading - **We expect children to read in class and at home** to extend their reading time. In Year 4, the children will need to be reading longer texts to extend their knowledge and increase their vocabulary acquisition. Reading records also need to be signed daily by a parent/guardian or child. If a child's reading record is not signed for 3 days in a row, you will receive a text.
  - Times Tables – Year 4 pupils will take a Multiplication Table Check (MTC) in June 2027. Therefore, **we expect children to practise times tables on Times Tables Rockstar (TTRS) every week.**
  - Maths and spelling homework will be given out weekly on Fridays and is expected to be given in/completed by the following Thursday. This homework will be given physically, unless otherwise communicated.
- **PE days are Tuesday and Thursday.**
- **Swimming – Children will be swimming on Thursday afternoons, starting from 10<sup>th</sup> September 2026.** The children will need trunks (non-baggy) or a one piece suit along with a towel. Children should come to school in their PE kits. They will be transferred by coach to Leek Leisure Centre where they will change in to their swimming suits in same sex pairs. They will be accompanied by members of staff from school and taught by the coaches provided by the leisure centre.
- **We will provide the children with all the equipment they will need for the school day. If your child has a pencil case, we will ask them to put it in their tray** and they can get it out as and when they need to.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please pop in or call and we will endeavour to speak to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Oakden and Mrs Kirkham