



# Decoy Community Primary School And First Steps Nursery

Deer Park Road, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 1DH

Tel: (01626) 353282

**Headteacher:** Mrs Heather Poustie

[admin@decoyschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@decoyschool.co.uk)

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you have had a lovely summer. We are very excited to start this new school year with you and your children.

We would like to share some key information with you about our learning in Year 4.

**Reading** – in Year 4, the books that your children are reading usually come from the library as part of our Accelerated Reader scheme. We encourage you to discuss and question your child on their reading book; this will help them when they come to quiz. Obviously, the comprehension of the text is very important and a child cannot move onto the next level of books until their understanding is secure. Accelerated Reader (AR) quizzes can be taken at home but it is vital that children take these quizzes independently without adult support. Instructions for logging in will be written into the front of the reading record. The website for taking quizzes can be found at: <https://ukhosted51.renlearn.co.uk/2236651/default.aspx>.

Children should record in their reading record which page they have read up to, and make a quick comment. We recommend that children try and read for at least ten minutes, at least once a day. If your child takes a quiz, this should also be recorded, along with their score. Please can an adult at home sign the reading record comments **four times a week** in order to evidence that your child has read. Helping our children to become fluent readers is perhaps THE most important thing we can do for them. Reading books and records need to be in school every day; we will check and sign reading records every **Wednesday** to make sure that children are keeping up with their reading.

**Curriculum** – We are very close to launching our new school website which will contain details of our new whole school curriculum. However, in the meantime, please find a list below of topics being covered in Year 4 this Autumn Term.

- PSHE – Being Me
- Art and Design – Designing and modelling Greek pots from clay



- Computing – We are software developers!
- Design and Technology – What makes a healthy sandwich?
- English – Story writing based on the Paddington stories. Persuasive writing based on 'The day the crayons quit'
- Geography – Comparing North and South America
- History – How the Ancient Greeks lived
- Mathematics – Place Value to 10,000. Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish) – Numbers, colour and animals
- Music – Appraising Abba songs
- Religious Education – The Holy trinity and Hinduism
- Physical Education – Pilates, Fitness circuits, Tennis skills and football skills
- Science – States of matter and Sound

**Homework** – We will give homework once a week on a Friday, and collect books back in by the following Tuesday. We will usually set maths, spellings and occasionally topic-related homework. Children should complete their Sparx times tables every week. Information about Sparx, including how to login into a child's account will be stuck into the homework book. We will mark homework with ticks and a brief comment, and if there are any issues, we will talk to children about these at school. We do expect the children to present their work neatly to the standard they know is expected in their school books.

**PE** – Our PE days are on Mondays and Tuesdays and on these days the children should come into school in their PE kits.

**Snacks** – We would like your help to promote healthy snacks at break time. Please avoid sending in crisps, biscuits and chocolate bars, or anything containing nuts, and instead encourage the children to eat a piece of fruit, a cereal bar or breadsticks, for example.

**Labelling** – Please may we kindly ask that all jumpers, coats, drinks bottles and packed lunch boxes are labelled with your child's name. As we are sure you will appreciate, finding and returning un-named lost property to children can be time consuming.

**Emails** – If you need to speak with us, we are available at 3:30pm when the children are collected. If this is not possible, our emails are:

[ymorrell@decoyschool.co.uk](mailto:ymorrell@decoyschool.co.uk)

[rlawton@decoyschool.co.uk](mailto:rlawton@decoyschool.co.uk)

[jkilkelly@decoyschool.co.uk](mailto:jkilkelly@decoyschool.co.uk)

Please be aware that it is school policy that there is no expectation for staff to respond to emails outside of their working hours.

Mrs Morrell (Kingfishers) works alternate Mondays and Tuesday - Friday

Mr Kilkelly (Kingfishers) works alternate Mondays

Mrs Lawton (Mallards) works Monday - Friday

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support.



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Yvonne Morrell, Rachel Lawton and James Kilkelly

Year 4 Class Teachers

