

**WESTERN ROAD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first term of Year 4. I hope that you had an exciting and relaxing summer.

Our topic for Term 1 is Incredible Inventions in which we will learn about the inventions of The Ancient Maya. This is a topic which will allow the children to explore the origins of many Mayan inventions such as chocolate, calendars and astronomy as well as learning about how the Ancient Maya lived their life.

In English, we will read 'The Great Kapok Tree' – a book about a tree that was sacred to the Maya. We will use it to learn persuasive writing techniques by writing letters to stop people cutting down the special tree. We will also explore the theme of deforestation and saving the rainforests. We will then move on to look at a Mayan folktale about how chocolate was discovered. We will explore narrative poetry using the poem 'Chocolate Cake' by Michael Rosen. In Guided Reading, we will read 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl. If the children have a copy at home, it would be great if they could bring it in for these lessons.

In maths, we are starting the year by exploring place value. This will include 4-digit numbers and the introduction of 'thousands' as another place value. We will be looking at the number line up to 10,000 as well as introducing rounding to the nearest 10 and 100. We are also preparing for the statutory Year 4 Multiplication Check, which will take place in June, and our focus this term will be on the 3x, 6x, 12x and 4x tables. Please visit <https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/> for more information.

Our science this term is all about states of matter. We will be exploring how objects change state when heated or cooled. During this unit we will also be looking at the process of evaporation and what role it plays in the water cycle.

In PSHE this term, we will be learning about families and relationships. We will learn that families are varied and differences must be respected, as well as understanding physical and emotional boundaries in friendships. We will also explore the roles of bully, victim and bystander and how behaviour affects others. We will learn about manners in different situations, as well as about bereavement.

We have PE this term on Mondays and Thursdays. Our focus will be on fitness and the development of the fundamental skills of balancing, running, jumping, hopping and skipping.

This term we have sent out a homework pack for you to complete over the next 5 weeks. Ideally, we would like you to choose 2/3 items on the list per week. We will also set a series of MyMaths activities for you to choose from at your leisure. The spelling list for each week is on the front of the pack and we will select five from each week to work on in class. There will not be a spelling test but the children will be practising these spelling in class each day and encouraged to use the words in their independent writing.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to see us.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Laura Patience and Ms Margie Krijnauw  
Year Four Class Teachers