

Tuesday 27th September 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Over the next couple of weeks there are some important events that are taking place within the school and the year group. I have listed below the specific dates, what is happening on these days and what the children are required to do and wear.

**Wednesday 27th September** – Author visit, children do not need to come in PE kit.

**Monday 2nd October** – Year 4 Roman Day, if children can come in dressed as a Roman, that would be amazing.

**Wednesday 4th October** – If possible, can children bring in a suitable newspaper for our Art project. These can be brought into school at any time prior to this date.

**Thursday 12th October** – We need the children to come into school in MUFTI, but it needs to be old mufti, as we will be making sculptures in Art out of plaster and it will be messy! (A text will be sent out again close to this date)

**Friday 13th October** – Key Stage 2 - Tempest photos school- uniform to be worn please. 8am for families with children not attending Montpelier.

**Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th October** – Progress Evenings

**Times Tables**

Last week, we held our very first Battle of the Bands in Year 4. It was a huge success with 100% of the children taking part and really engaging in the challenge. The eventual winners were 4M who enjoyed some extra playtime as a result. We have been looking at ways to improve children’s use of TTRockstars, what modes are best to learn their tables? How long should children be playing on it? How often should children be playing it in order to get the most out of it? It suggests that children who play 3-5 minutes every day on **Garage Mode** have a better success rate at learning their tables than a child who plays it for 30 mins, once a week. We as a year group, would like the children to play little and often, if it is at all possible. Garage Mode is an algorithm which analyses the children’s answers and will constantly track the children’s progress. It will slowly introduce new tables when it realises that the children are ready as long as they are accessing it regularly and are doing it themselves. It will then create a heatmap which will give the children and adults an understanding of what times tables they are confident in and which ones they need support with. We will discuss this further during our Progress Meetings at the end of term.



Thank you for all of your ongoing support.

The Year 4 team