

Dear Parents and Children,

I hope you have all had a lovely Easter break after an excellent Spring term. Base 4 have all worked exceptionally hard and are incredibly proud of their Learning Journey books... and rightly so! I wanted to update you about our learning for the Summer Term.

As always, we will have a class book to drive our Learning Journey. The White Giraffe by Lauren St. John tells the story of Martine, an 11-year old girl who has to leave her home in England to live on a game reserve in South Africa. As she tries to settle in to her new surroundings, she discovers mysteries and secrets about the game reserve and rumours of a white giraffe living there. Somehow, despite her loneliness in her new home, Martine knows she has a magical connection to the giraffe and is prepared to risk anything for it.



The wonderful settings, vocabulary and narrative will hopefully inspire the children's imagination, along with their reading and writing this term. It will also underpin our whole school Learning Journey focus on Africa. Base 4's journey will focus on the country of South Africa. We'll look at the climate in South Africa compared to other places, learning about the tropics and the equator. Also in Geography, we'll look at the distribution of resources between urban and rural areas and focus on the drought in Cape Town to develop some writing on the subject.

We'll be developing and creating different flavoured bread in D&T, exploring changes in states of matter in Science and composing our own African drumming sequences in Music. In Art, we'll study the work of Edward Saidi Tingatinga and create our own Tinga Tinga artwork.



As a class, we will have a big focus on developing the children's vocabulary over the summer term. Mrs. Cadour will be teaching and testing spellings on a Friday and each day the children will have a focussed word-level activity to improve their range and use of vocabulary. We will also be focussing on guided reading and comprehension this term and some children will also be using the IDL programme on laptops to develop their spelling.

As always, a really important way you can help support this is by reading a wide range of quality texts with your child. As always, reading every day is absolutely vital, both at school and at home. I've ordered a range of texts and some that the children were really keen to read from the Education Library Service and can continue to do so throughout the term. Please do feel free to speak to me about your child's reading.

We are also going to really push our rapid recall of times tables. By the end of year 4, all children should be able to recall all of their times tables facts to 12 x 12 quickly. Being able to recall these facts quickly and accurately plays a crucial part throughout all other areas of mathematics and practicing them will help both year 4 and 5 children to master their maths. As well as a daily times table practice (usually a game or challenge in class), we'll be doing a weekly speed test and setting up challenges on Times Tables Rockstars both within the class and between classes. So please continue to use TTRS at home and practice your times tables at home.

The broad timetable for each week is below. School gates open at 8.45am and all children are to be in school by 8.55am when the gates close, fully equipped with their reading book and reading record, homework, a healthy snack and a coat for the changeable weather.

Summer Term 2019

Base 4



The children are given morning tasks from 8.45am to prepare for the day and start their learning, so arriving earlier gives children a good head-start.

Base 4	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.45-8.55	Morning Task	Morning Task	Morning Task	Morning Task	Morning Task
9.00-10.20	x tables practice	x tables practice	x tables practice	x tables speed test	Reading comprehension SPaG (inc. spelling test)
	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	
Break					
10.40-12.00	Word/Vocab work	Word/Vocab work	Word/Vocab work	Word/Vocab work	French / SPaG Reading comprehension
	English	English	English	English	
Lunch					
1.00-1.30	Whole School Assembly	News Assembly	Vocab, spelling and comprehension activities.	RE PE	Learning Journey
1.30-2.30					
2.30-3.15	Learning Journey	Learning Journey	Guided reading		
3.15-3.30	Class Story	Class Story	Class Story		ACHIEVE assembly

Note: Learning journey includes all other subjects (history, geography, computing etc.)

Base 4 are only 2 golden attendance tickets behind the leading class at the moment and I know that the children are as keen as I am to win the prize. We know that sometimes missed days are unavoidable, but a child missing a day's learning and having to catch up can impact not just on the returning child, but on the rest of the class as staff help children catch up. It would be great if we aimed this term to achieve 100% attendance for as many weeks as possible.

If you have any messages, worries or concerns, don't hesitate to speak to me at the gate, or if we need a longer conversation, I'm happy to speak over the phone or arrange a meeting after school.

Hamba Kahle (that's "Go well" in isiZulu, the most common language of South Africa),

Mr. Lindop