

**Summer Term 1 Newsletter**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome *back*? So to speak…

I hope you and your family are all keeping well and that the sunshine is helping to keep spirits up.

It’s really important that your child knows that although the building is closed, our ‘school’ is still open and we are all here to support children’s learning.

Although it may not be possible to respond to messages immediately, I will ensure that any message sent during normal school hours are responded to before the end of that day.  This may include arranging a time to have a call with your child to discuss the work in more detail.

With this in mind, I am also going to set up a regular weekly workshop when I’ll be online to immediately support and answer questions. This will take place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11am-12pm and messages/questions can be sent to me via Class Dojo.

I really want to see all of the great work children have been doing, so please send these to me whether that’s on Class Dojo, or emailed to me directly at cbown@firbeck.org.uk. It would also be helpful to remind children that I may ask them to edit and improve their work - just as I would in school.

This half term will obviously look very different although my hope is that children still follow some sort of structure – something which works for you and your families.  To support this, I have put together an example timetable you may wish to follow.

This can be found in the ‘[School Closures](https://www.firbeck.org.uk/page.php?d=year4&p=school_closure)’ section of the class page on the website.

Given that guided home learning is no substitute for classroom learning, I wish to arrange buddy systems so students can talk with and learn from each other.  I will be in contact with more details on this shortly.

**Maths** - this half term’s focus is primarily fractions - fractions have been something that I know some children have found tricky - for this reason we are going to revisit rather than introduce something new.
Maths learning will be guided through online videos and each step of the process is supported - this should hopefully help them to complete the work. Each lesson will take approximately 45-60 mins and children should be able to complete the work independently.
In addition, there will also be some focus on multiplication, division, perimeter and area..

**Times Tables** - As yet, the Year 4 Multiplications Tables Check may still take place in June. Please encourage your child to use TT Rockstars in order to be prepared for them.

**Reading** - From my own experience as a parent, I’ve seen the amount of reading my own children do decline - partly due to a lack of new books.  So, I have registered Class 4 with Oxford Reading Owls where children can find a reading book which is appropriate to their reading level and complete the daily tasks I set.

You can log in to Class 4’s own section of the site by going to <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Username: **Bown**, Password **1234** – here you will find books up to a reading age of 11.

**Writing** - Will mainly focus on those grammatical and structural aspects of writing which help to improve stories – each week this will culminate in a piece of writing which will help your child to demonstrate what they have learnt that week.

**Topic** – I have planned work which allows you to focus on one specific subject during that week – this will encourage children to continually build upon prior learning, and also helps you to have focused topic days, if your personal situation makes it difficult to stick to a timetable. More information is available on the website.

**Class Dojo** – Many parents have signed up, but there are still a few who are missing out. Class Dojo lets you send me information about what your child has been doing, how many reward points they’ve earned and it is an easy way to get in touch with me if there is anything you wish to discuss.

I wish you all well and look forward to seeing everybody as soon as we are able.

Best Wishes

Carl Bown