

Dear parents and carers of boys in Years 3 and 4

Congratulations to your boys on all that they have achieved and contributed at school this term. I would just like to mention two things to you at the start of the holidays.

HOLIDAY WORK

After a busy term at school (and quite possibly a busy Christmas holiday coming up!), the boys should have a break from formal academic work for a few weeks. However, to help keep things ticking over, they should continue with plenty of reading and mental maths.

On the reading, you can use www.arbookfind.co.uk to identify books that you could obtain online, from bookshops or from local libraries that are within a boy's reading range. Also available to you is the Home Connect system that enables you to access from home detailed information about a boy's progress and engagement with his reading. Use your son's regular Accelerated Reader login details to [login to Home Connect here](#). With this facility now available to you, teachers will probably not send paper copies of quiz results home in future.

On the mental maths, [Times Tables Rock Stars](#) remains our recommended way to practise at home over the holidays and Merits will certainly be awarded for good engagement during that time. In addition to times tables, it is essential that the likes of number bonds (e.g. any single digit plus any other single digit, or pairs of numbers that add up to 10/20/50/100), doubling and halving get plenty of attention too. Excitingly, we have just signed the school up to a trial period of Times Table Rock Stars' new number bonds programme called Numbots. Boys can [login to Numbots here](#) using the same login details as for Rock Stars. Unlike with Rock Stars, pupils cannot be set weekly challenges or targets by their teachers on Numbots; instead, all pupils start at the beginning of the programme and progress through the various levels by scoring well enough. Boys are encouraged to 'give it a go' over the holidays, with a view to us launching it properly in the new year.

REPORTS

You will recently have been sent your boys' end of term reports. Hopefully you have found them to be useful. You may have noticed that no marks or scores appear on Autumn term reports. This is because we want the focus in the first term of the academic year to be on establishing good learning habits. At the end of the Spring and Summer terms, parents are provided with their sons' marks accompanied by the year group median marks in Maths and English. Boys have been bringing home marked assessment papers for parents to review, and that will continue to occur, so hopefully you feel sufficiently informed about attainment.

With very best wishes for a lovely festive season.

Daniel Maitland

Head of Years 3 and 4