

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a lovely summer. I am greatly looking forward to helping your child / children to achieve their full potential over the coming months across the curriculum. I also hope that your child/ children will enjoy the Year 4 curriculum and take the many opportunities to develop new interests both and in and outside of the classroom.

Below I have listed some key pieces of information. Please take time to read these as your help with keeping your child organised is much appreciated.

The Curriculum:

- Shortly I will be uploading an overview of what we are covering this term to the school website. Do have a look and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thursday Afternoons:

Mrs. Hebditch will be taking the class for handwriting, RE and PSHE. This is to cover my PPA time.

Teaching Assistant Support: I am pleased to say that we have TA support on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Ind and Mrs. McKinnell will be working hard with me to ensure that those children who need support receive this in a coordinated and need based manner.

P.E.

This term we are doing football and tag rugby and so we will be outside (weather permitting) please ensure your child has suitable footwear and a tracksuit if they are sensitive to the cold. Lessons will take place on a **Wednesday** and a **Friday**. Please ensure that your child's PE kit is clearly named. Please can I remind you that your child must have a change of clothes to participate in their PE lessons.

Homework:

- I will be setting '**My Choice**' once a fortnight on a Monday; the hand in day will be the Friday before the new homework is set. The work will generally link into work we are doing within the curriculum and will cover all curriculum areas over the course of the year. All feedback is gratefully received. On the homework sheet I will also provide a brief summary of what we are covering in those two weeks in English and Maths.
- **Spellings** will be set once a week (Mondays) with a test on Fridays. It is useful if your child could practise these on a daily basis as frequency is the key to embedding new spellings into the long term memory.
- **Reading:** Your child should also read once a day. Some of you will note that your child benefits from being heard to read as they are still working on their decoding skills; others of you will feel that your child is reading independently and so perhaps do not require as much help with decoding. If this is you please take time to discuss a passage / chapter your child / children has read and in so doing

you will be developing your child's comprehension skills. It is also still valuable to read to your child as this often offers the opportunity to broach texts that are more challenging and stimulating in content than those texts which your child can read independently. All children will be issued with a reading record which I would like to see on Fridays.

- **Maths:**

Useful areas to work on with your child are times tables and, in an age of reliance on mobile phones and card payments, do encourage your child to tell the time using analogue clocks and provide them with the opportunity to handle money. It is also vital that children are able to re call basic number bonds to 10, 20 and 100 with ease as this is advantageous when using formal column methods for addition and subtraction when handling 4 digit numbers.

Drinks Bottles:

I only allow water in the classroom. I am happy for children to drink as and when they are genuinely thirsty; if I feel that having a drink is being used as a work avoidance tactic then this will be addressed swiftly and firmly. Your support is much appreciated in this.

Pencil Cases:

I am more than happy for your child to have a pencil case in the classroom, again, however, should a pencil case become a distraction to learning then that individual will not be allowed a pencil case for the remainder of the half term.

Recorders:

We will be playing the recorder in our curriculum music lessons (on Mondays) this term so if your child has their own descant recorder I am more than happy for them to bring that it into play.

Parental help:

- I would be very grateful for any time you could offer to help in the classroom. I am particularly keen to hear from parents who could regularly help on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons to listen to readers. Please let me know if you are keen to help.

I am looking forward to putting faces to names and meeting you over the coming weeks and on that note I would like to invite you to a brief meeting in Year 4 on **Tuesday 12th September at 3:45pm**. The purpose of this will be to offer a broad overview of work in Year 4 and also for you to have the opportunity to ask any questions you might have. As far as is possible I operate an open door policy and I can be caught before the start of school and after school should you need to speak to me.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

With warmest regards,

Mrs. Stephenson