

**Year 4 Curriculum Letter**  
**Autumn Term 2017**

Dear Parents and Carers,

This letter is to provide you with information about the work your children will be doing this Autumn term.

**Language:**

Children in year 4 learn in small matched level groups for Literacy throughout the year. We will be using the Junior English literacy scheme where each week children will have a focus piece of text. The text will either be fiction or non-fiction, on a linked theme which children will be required to read, discuss and on which they will answer questions. There will be a particular grammar focus for the week and this will culminate in a writing piece in which the children are expected to draw on the vocabulary development and grammar focus of that week. The children will study a variety of texts of differing genres and will be encouraged to read more widely around the theme of the week. This focus on a variety of genres will also be reflected in their writing tasks. Punctuation and grammar work will be covered in detail through dedicated lessons, as well as, through implementation in our writing activities. Spelling will be set at appropriate individual levels using a special spelling programme and will be practised daily. Handwriting will also be practised daily using our Penpals handwriting scheme. Talk homework is set weekly, encouraging dialogue on current topics. Some families have found success using the evening meal as a really good time to sit down together and discuss the homework topic. TV off and all engaged!

**Reading:**

We encourage the children to read a variety of books that will include home reading, shared reading in the class, library books and also books that they have written themselves. We will be focusing on comprehension to enable all children to have a greater understanding of the text. Every **Monday** your child will have the opportunity to visit the school library. They will share one book with you at home, and the other book will be read at school during Drop Everything and Read. Your child's reading diary should be used when reading at home and will be a useful form of communication between school and home.

They also have a Reading Record that you must complete each time your child reads to you. This is an excellent way for us to track how much supported reading the children are doing with an adult. We ask that you aim to read with your child for a short period of time each evening.

**Speaking and Listening:**

Children will have opportunities to talk to build their speaking and listening skills through a range of planned activities, such as Partner Talk, assemblies and Writing sessions. The latter is an excellent opportunity for the children to actively participate in a discussion on a range of topics, which has a profound effect on their spoken English. They will also be given the opportunity to talk about their work in other areas of the curriculum, especially to discuss ways in which they can improve their work.

**Maths:**

CHAT have decided to adapt the Mathematics scheme of work to ensure all children are prepared with the appropriate skills to develop and progress in line with, and exceed National expectations. The maths team have devised a robust medium term plan for each year group using a variety of resources from the best mathematics schemes available, including MMS, Singapore Maths, Rising Stars and Bond's No Nonsense Maths. From this, teachers are able to plan succinct lessons, personalising learning in each of the areas of Maths (Number, Measure, Geometry and Statistics). In Number this term the children will be learning to

count in multiples, recognising place values, solving maths stories using addition/subtraction and estimating numbers using different representations including fractions. In Measure this term the children will be able to convert between different units of measure. In Geometry this term the children will be comparing and classifying geometric shapes and in Statistics the children will be learning how to interpret and present data using the appropriate methods.

### **Science:**

This term we are introducing a new Science scheme of work. This half term children will be looking at the *Classification of living things*. Children will know how to classify groups of animals, know what the term 'extinction' means and know that natural disasters and change impact chance of extinction. Next half term the children will learn about *Electricity*. They will learn about circuits and how to represent them in proper scientific diagrams. Children will also test materials ability to conduct electricity.

### **French:**

This term the children will be recapping their previous learning, and further developing their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills using the educational tool Rigolo. They will also have the opportunity to use their skills in an authentic French experience.

### **ICT:**

The pupils start the autumn term by playing and analysing educational computer games, identifying those features that make a game successful. They then plan and design a game, with a clear target audience in mind. They will also be creating a working prototype, and developing it further to add functionality and improve the user interface. Finally, at the end of the unit, they will test their game and make any necessary changes.

### **Religious Education:**

Since religion is a shaping force in the story of civilisation, the children will be learning about Hinduism. The purpose is to familiarise, not proselytise; to be descriptive, not prescriptive. Children will learn about the third largest religion in the world and the tone will be one of respect and balance: no religion will be disparaged by implying that it is a thing of the past but to increase respect for religions other than one's own.

### **Music:**

The children will further their skills with the recorders, building upon what they already to know to become more confident with basic elements of music (rhythm, melody, harmony, form, timbre, etc.). They will learn the names of musical notes, scales as a series of notes and how to sing the C major scale using 'do re mi'. They will then have the chance to apply this knowledge to create and perform their own short compositions.

### **History:**

The children will be investigating the roots of civilisation in Ancient Rome through people and places, politics and economics, art and war, trade and technology. This will link to their Art lessons where they will be studying the architecture, especially monuments, evident during the Roman times.

### **Geography:**

The children will learn about the geography of Mediterranean Europe and investigate the climates, ecosystems and physical geography of this region. They become familiar with features of maps such as scale, symbols and keys. They will use the eight points of the compass, identify changes to a locality over time and investigate imaginary lines such as the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn and their significance.

### **Art:**

In the first half of the autumn term children will be introduced to the monuments of Rome and the Byzantium era. They will get the opportunity to explore how Emperors used and adapted these monuments to display their images, show power and represent history. This will link to their History lessons as here, they will be learning about life as a Roman in ancient times. They will then be introduced to the concepts of light, space

and design and will investigate how artists use light and shadow to focus our attention and create mood, and develop an understanding of two-dimension (height, width), and three-dimension (height, width, depth). They will observe how artists can make what they depict look three-dimensional, despite working in two-dimensions, by creating an illusion of depth.

#### **PE:**

The children focus on developing the skills they need for net games and on how to use these skills to make the game difficult for their opponent. They learn to direct the ball towards the target area and away from their opponent. In all games activities, children have to think about how they use skills, strategies and tactics to outwit the opposition. In net games, players achieve this by sending a ball (or other implement) towards a court or target area which their opponent is defending. The aim is to get the ball to land in the target area and make it difficult for the opponent to return it.

Through the Enfield School Swimming Programme the children also have the fantastic opportunity to develop water confidence and water safety skills, master basic stroke techniques and participate in enjoyable social activities which can help improve health and fitness.

#### **PE Days:**

**School PE – Monday and Thursday**

**Swimming every Monday (starting Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September until Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January)**

Please remember the children should wear the school PE Kit. No earrings or watches should be worn on PE days.

The clothing requirements for the swimming programme are:

**Girls:** A one piece swimming costume  
**No bikinis or wetsuits please.**  
A swimming hat for long hair  
A towel

**Boys:** A pair of trunks.  
**Swimming shorts or sports shorts that are loose fitting or finish below the knee are not suitable, because they can hinder a pupils progress, fall off, or fill up with air and tip the pupil over.**  
A swimming hat for long hair  
A towel

**Underwear must not be worn underneath the swimming costume or swimming trunks.**

The swimming costume, towel etc should have a name tag clearly visible and carried to school in a waterproof or plastic bag.

#### Homework

The Read Aloud 2017 initiative was launched in February 2017, and encourages children and their parents to read aloud for at least 15 minutes each day. Children will record the minutes they read each night on a reading record that will be sent home. Reading plays an integral part of your child's learning so get involved!

Following our change in policy, homework will not be sent home regularly each week. Some children may receive targeted homework, but most children will receive spellings and library books to take home. We encourage you to work together with them on these. If you are searching for additional tasks please refer to

your child's pupil profile targets for personal focus areas. Times tables are also a focus for the whole school, and practise at home really helps. Please make use of the childrens' Sumdog accounts.

**School bags and water bottles must be brought into school every day.**

Useful websites to use at home with your children:

[www.primaryresources.co.uk](http://www.primaryresources.co.uk)

[www.stockton.gov.uk](http://www.stockton.gov.uk)

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

### Parental Involvement

There are many ways you can help and support your child's learning at home. This may involve reading stories, listening to their reading or visiting the library. You could also help by encouraging them to discuss what they have been doing both in and out of school.

If you are unable to collect your child from school please inform the class teacher or school office with the name of the person collecting your child.

Thank you for your support.

Miriam Abdulkadir and Karen Albert

Year 4 Teachers