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**Wednesday 9th January, 2019**

## **Year 4 - Class Newsletter - Spring Term 2019**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back after a refreshing Christmas break! The children have all come back renewed and ready to learn with very positive attitudes to their work.

The Year 4 team are available if you have any questions, they are: Miss Johnson, Mrs Brooker, Mrs Thomas, Mrs Long and Mrs Howell

**Topics** – This term promises to be lots of fun in Year 4. We have a few weeks to complete our World War II topic (as it seemed to get eaten up by Christmas) and then we dive straight into the Human Digestive system and linking this with food technology in DT! We have our fly to the line STEM competition to complete and will be heading to Florida (courtesy of POW airlines) to find out more about the life of Sea Turtles and also to the Gambia to work on our recycling. We will have the opportunity to investigate animals and plants further with special expert help in class and from visiting parents. We also have a Science week at the end of term. There are some fantastic opportunities for science, DT, art, history, geography, numeracy, story-telling and writing as well as drama within these topics. We will continue to be involved with Food for Life work through food based and gardening activities (when the weather warms up a bit!).

**Trips** – We will be visiting the farm during March, we will be visiting Tesco's or Pizza Express as part of our DT/Science topic. There will also be a parents' information session about Hooke Court coming up soon.

**Snacks and Water** – To maximise our brain function and encourage a healthy lifestyle we would like children to bring a healthy snack to school each day to eat at break in addition to a bottle of water. We are encouraging the children to drink and eat smart by keeping hydrated through the day and be conscious of what they are eating. Snacks such as crisps and sweets will be positively discouraged.

**Reading** – Reading is hugely important in Year 4, many children in Year 4 are very enthusiastic readers and will read at every opportunity, others need a little more encouragement. With our new grown up table spaces we often use



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reading to settle into class after break and lunchtime and often children don't have their reading books with them. **It is essential that your child remembers to bring their book bag to school every day.** Year 4 children need to be responsible for remembering this and organising themselves at the beginning and end of the day. Book bags are needed for library, quiet reading, and spelling activities, as well as Individual reading to teachers, classroom assistants and parent helpers. Children should have one or two AR reading books and a non-fiction Library book to choose from as well as their phonics book or spelling journal at all times. Library book change will take place on a Monday, but children are encouraged to change their books and take AR quizzes throughout the week. A record is kept of books going in and out of the library, so it is important that children do not put their library books back without registering it. **If you find any school books at home that may have been forgotten please return them to school so that we can add them back into our stock (no questions asked!).** Please try to find time to read with your children at home, whether they are fluent or not, sharing books together on a daily basis will help them to become more confident and develop a love for reading.

**Spelling and Home Learning Activities** – Children will be bringing spellings (a printed copy and written into their spelling journals), to be learned for the following week. In addition to spelling, times tables and reading home learning, children will sometimes be given a piece of research or maths based home learning on Fridays to be returned the following week, or later – the home learning will have the return date on. All children who return their home learning will be rewarded for their efforts. In addition we also have lots of ICT activities, which can be accessed at home through pupil links; you can find mathletics, purple mash and AR reading here. We are also taking part in a free trial of Times Table Rockstars and timestables.co.uk which both provide excellent ways of remembering times tables.

In doing this, may we remind you of the school's policy on using the Internet at home, which is to always supervise your child when using the Internet.

**Assembly** – Our assembly this term will be on Friday 25th March at 9:20am in the school hall. You are more than welcome to come along and see for yourself what fun we have been having this term.

**Swimming and PE kits** – Swimming takes place every Wednesday afternoon throughout the term, if for any reason it is cancelled we will let you know in advance by letter, on our blog and on the whiteboards outside the classroom. The usual arrangements for pick up from the pool or school remain ongoing, if you are picking up from the pool please arrive by 3:20pm so that we can return the remaining children to school for 3:30pm.

Please could you ensure that your child has a full PE kit in school, the weather is colder this term I would also like the children to bring trainers and tracksuit bottoms for outside PE, it is also useful if they have a spare pair of socks, our PE sessions take place on Tuesday am (indoors) with Mr Treble and Tuesday pm (indoors / outside) with the Basketball Coach.



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**Rights, Responsibilities and Growing Up** – We have been thinking about how we can ensure that our classroom remains a happy, safe and fair place to be. We have renewed our class charter, which states our rights and the responsibilities we have to ensure these rights are fulfilled. The class charter is used in conjunction with the DASP Caterpillars to support expectations for behaviour. Our class rules continue to be constantly and consistently reinforced and this term we are really looking out for those children who are kind and considerate to others and who will make great and reliable friends as they transfer to their next schools. The children are showing their developing maturity by completing their monitoring responsibilities around school and in continuing to look after their buddies.

We have also rearranged the classroom to allow the children to learn from their desks as they will be doing when they go to middle school. We are also encouraging all children to bring in their own pencil cases and be responsible for their own equipment. The class has risen to the challenge well and we look forward to putting more steps to success for middle school in as the term progresses.

**Parents Evening** – I look forward to seeing you to discuss your child's progress on Tuesday 5th February from 5:30 – 8:00 or Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February from 3:45 – 5:45. If you are not able to make these dates please come and see me and we can arrange another session.

**Parents Information Session** is Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 9am

**Science Week** - W/C 11<sup>th</sup> February

**Inset Day** - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February

**Half Term** - W/C - 18<sup>th</sup> February

**World Book Day** - Thursday 7th March (information on activities and dressing up to follow)

Yours sincerely,

Miss A Johnson  
Year 4 Class Teacher



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