

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Welcome to Year 4**

All your children have made a very positive start to year 4. They have all settled in and adapted to the new routines. They are a lovely group of children and we are delighted to be teaching them. We have a lot of exciting things planned for the year ahead and we hope that all the children will have a fun and happy learning experience. The aim of this letter is to lay out our expectations for the year. We will be sending home a termly newsletter to keep you up to date with day to day life in Year 4. We are also very happy to meet with you if you ever have any concerns or would just like to touch base. We are very excited about the coming year.

#### **Expectations at Key Stage 2**

- Please ensure that your son or daughter is wearing the correct school uniform at all times (see website) and that all clothing is clearly named, especially their jumpers and cardigans.
- No toys to be brought to school. Own pens / pencils etc may be brought in but they will be the responsibility of your child and are not essential.
- Snacks: children can bring a healthy snack for break but this should not be sweets (including chocolate bars, crisps and chewing gum). If possible it should be fruit.
- Reading journals are to be brought into school every day.
- PE kit to be brought in to school every Monday and taken home every Friday.
- Year 4 will be swimming in Autumn and Spring terms. The children will require a costume, towel, swimming hat and goggles; this applies to both girls and boys. Failure to provide the FULL kit will mean your child is unable to enter the pool (St. Paul's rules!). Hats are available from the office. All KS2 children are expected to swim as it is a requirement on the National Curriculum.

#### **The Year 4 Team**

4B - Mrs. Bracegirdle - class teacher.

Mrs Korkmazgil - teaching assistant.

4J - Miss Jones - class teacher on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Mr Agarwal - Friday.

Miss Pembe - teaching assistant/Learning support assistant

#### **The Year 4 Curriculum**

Children in Year 4 will follow the New Primary National Curriculum - more information to follow.

The Year 4 Topic areas will be:

AUTUMN - The Victorians, Habitats and Electricity.

SPRING - Brazil, Animals and Year 4 and 5 production.

SUMMER - The Tudors, Sound, and States of Matter.

We always encourage the children to find extra information on the topics being covered, and where appropriate, may bring artefacts and books into school.

### **Timetable**

Prompt arrival at school is vital to ensure that children do not miss any part of the curriculum and start the school day with their classmates. Arriving late will also mean that your child will miss vital 'Early Work' such as spellings and handwriting.

PE is on Wednesday and swimming is on Thursdays this term - though your child's PE kit should be in everyday 'just in case!'

We will all be learning how to play the flute and continuing to learn Italian.

### **Homework**

In Key Stage 2 the quantity and complexity of homework increases significantly. It is therefore important that you support your child with their homework. This may simply be ensuring the child has a quiet place away from the TV to do their homework or to check that homework has been completed and handed in on time.

In Year four, homework will be handed out on Thursday and should be handed in on Monday. There are some homework guidelines just inside the front cover of their homework books.

### **Reading**

There is a tendency to think that as your child progresses towards the top of the school the need to hear your child read lessens. This is not the case. It is our expectation that children will read at home every day and will have this signed off in their reading record books. We will check their reading record books daily and we are looking for those children who have a 100% reading record. Wherever possible please try to hear your child read, asking them questions about what they have read and their ideas and opinions they have about books, which should be both fact and fiction. This is a crucial part of their homework.

### **The Blog**

We hope to have this up and running after half term. This is a great resource and is an excellent way to get children writing.

### **Residential Trip**

After the huge success last year, we are planning to take your children on a residential trip to Kingswood, Ashford. The dates are 29<sup>th</sup> April - 1st May. We are holding a meeting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 6pm to discuss this further, in the meantime have a look at the centre's website, particularly the parent's section [www.kingswood.co.uk](http://www.kingswood.co.uk). Last year many of the children said this trip was the highlight of the year!

### **Helpers**

We are always happy for parents, Grandparents, friends etc. to come in and help on either an occasional or regular basis. We always need people to hear readers, change books, play games with the children or work with groups on an activity. If you are able to help in anyway please call in after school to arrange a suitable time.

Please contact us to discuss anything. If you work and don't come to the school regularly then leave a message with the office and we will be very happy to call you at our earliest convenience. We are really looking forward to this year, getting to know your children.

Frances Bracegirdle and Hannah Jones  
Class Teachers