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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Wednesday 18th January 2017

Year 4 Newsletter - Spring 2017

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome back after a refreshing Christmas break! The children have all come back ready to learn with very positive attitudes to their work. The Year 4 team are available if you have any questions, they are: Mrs Johnson, Mrs Scott and Mrs Long.

Topic – The first half of this term has a humanities focus, learning about The Gambia and Florida with many opportunities for cross curricular links. There will be a café for the children in Year 3 and Year 4 on Shrove Tuesday (Tuesday 9th February) to celebrate our learning in French and it is a great opportunity to practise our French! During the second half of the term we will be learning about Romeo and Juliet as well as a History topic about the Stone Age. There are some fantastic opportunities for Art, History, Geography, Numeracy, storytelling and writing as well as drama within these topics. Our Science this term begins with teeth and progresses to the digestive system; we link this learning with our Design Technology topic about food and diet. 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 as part of our DT/Science topic and possibly as part of themed fortnight learning about 'Fair Trade'. Fairtrade Fortnight begins on Monday 27th February.

There is a Parents' Information session about Hooke Court on Wednesday 25th January at 3.30pm in the Year 4 classroom.

Snacks and Water – To maximise our brain function and encourage a healthy life style 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. We will be monitoring the snacks this term and will offer healthy fruit snacks to anyone with unhealthy snacks such as biscuits and cakes.

Reading – This term we are prioritising Reading in Year 4, many children in Year 4 are very enthusiastic readers and we would like to harness this enthusiasm by sharing favourite books and authors and even making our own talking books. 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, shared reading, group reading sessions and spelling activities, as well as Individual reading to teachers, classroom assistants and parent helpers.

Children should have one reading book of their colour, a reading diary, in which we encourage the children and adults who hear them to keep a record of the books they have read, and a Non Fiction Library book. There is also a personalised reading target in each reading diary. Once a person listening to a reader feels that they have met the target during that session then they need to sign and date the target, this will be reviewed in class and a new target set accordingly after 3 or 4 times achieving it. Library book change will take place on a Monday. A record is kept of books going in and out of the library, so it is important that children do not put their library book back without registering it. 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 books.

Spelling and Home Learning activities - Children will be bringing spellings home each week on a Friday, to be learned for the following Friday. 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' on the school website. Additional research may be given verbally to the children in lessons and I always look forward to seeing work from children who have continued school learning at home.

The children can access Mathletics by going directly to www.mathletics.co.uk. They can also use the LINKS button on the front page of the website to access this. Children know their login details, but should they forget, we have copies in school. Please continue to follow the class blog for news, information and updates on class learning.

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 26th February 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 morning 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 blackboards outside the classroom. Please could you make sure that if you bring your child to the swimming pool, you remain with them until a member of school staff arrives. Alternatively you can drop your child at school at 8:40 am inside the ICT suite where they will walk up with Mrs Scott, Mrs Long and myself. Again, please wait with your child until the adults arrive to walk them to the pool.

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 (indoors) and Friday (outside).

Rights and Responsibilities - 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.

Parents Evening - I look forward to seeing you to discuss your child's progress on **Monday 20th February from 3:30 - 6pm and Tuesday 21st February from 5:30 - 8:00**. If you are not able to make these dates please come and see me and we can arrange another session.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JH' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs Johnson
Year 4 Class Teacher