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Wednesday 13th September, 2017

#### Year 4 - Class Newsletter - Autumn Term 1 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 4. We have had a very exciting start to the year already, and we are looking forward to a busy and exciting year. We have spent some time over the first few days re-establishing our Class Charter and discussing the rights and the responsibilities we have in Year 4 in order to make our class and school a fun, fair and motivating place to learn. We have put our ideas together to make a class charter which we have displayed in our class to reinforce these expectations. These rules will be constantly and consistently reinforced across the year so that we all have "a great year!" and the children will end the year feeling self confident and ready for the challenge of starting their new schools.

Please do not hesitate to talk to the team if you have any questions or concerns.

The team are:



Mrs. Johnson



Mrs Scott

The best time to catch us is just before or after school.



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## **Topic –**

We will be studying World War 2 this term. This is a fun and motivating topic providing learning opportunities across the curriculum in subjects such as: History, Geography, Art, DT, Literacy, PE, Drama and Music. There will be two class trips this term, with dates to be confirmed. One will be to the Nothe Fort and one to Bovington Tank Museum. There will also be some other events, themed weeks and activities this term which we will keep you informed of via the weekly newsletter and the class blog.

## **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 (some of the children who don't bring a snack often complain of being hungry long before lunch and this interferes with their ability to concentrate). 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. As last year and in line with our school's policy, please can you provide your child with water only to drink during lesson time. If your child requires a squash based drink they may bring an additional bottle which can be kept in their lunch boxes or bags to be drunk at lunch time only.

## **Reading –**

Please could you help your child to remember to bring their book bags to school every day. Year 4 children need to begin to be responsible for remembering this and organising themselves in readiness for middle school. Book bags are needed for Library, Quiet reading, Group reading sessions and spelling activities as well as Individual reading to teachers, classroom assistants and parent helpers. Children should have two reading books of their colour and their new reading record for us to write in. A computer system logs books in and out just like a real library, so please don't return Library books directly to the shelves!

## **Spelling and Home Learning Activities –**

Children will be bringing spellings home each week on a Friday, to be learned for the following Friday. The spelling sheet will have three levelled lists of which your child will be expected to learn 2 lists of their choice (12 spellings), however if they would like to try more that is also fine. If your child is struggling with the spellings or finding them too easy please let a member of staff know and we will endeavour to adjust the lists accordingly. There are lots of fun ways to learn spellings at home, try making learning spellings into a game, hunting letters and sounds around the house to build a word can be great fun. In addition to spellings and reading we are involved in the Mathletics program which is available on line and we will also be allocating class time to using this to support our learning, they will also be set times tables challenges to be practised and learned by the following Friday. In addition children will regularly bring home numeracy home learning and topic related projects. These projects will be set over a couple of weeks to give you plenty of time to be creative and to plan and produce a piece of work, allowing children to choose how to present it using and nurturing other valuable skills. Children who return their home learning will be rewarded for their efforts.



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## Assembly –

The date for our autumn assembly is **Friday 13th October** and will be 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. There will be a harvest celebration assembly on **Friday 29th September**, which you are also warmly invited to.

## Swimming and PE Kits –

Year 4 will be swimming every Wednesday throughout the term. You can choose to wait with your child outside the ICT suite, where Mrs. Scott and I will meet the children to walk up at 8:40am or wait with your child at 1610 where we will meet them just before 9:00am. We will be swimming in the big pool and all children need a hat and goggles as well as a one piece swimming costume for girls or swimming trunks/shorts for boys (the skin tight ones are better because they do not drag in the water).

Please could you also ensure that your child has a full PE kit in school. Children may also bring trainers and tracksuit bottoms for outside PE in the cooler weather, our PE sessions take place on Tuesday and Friday morning.

## Wet Mornings –

As wet weather has become the norm we welcome you to wait under cover of the veranda outside year 3 or in the year 4 cloakroom until 8:45am.

## Parent Help –

Thank you to those of you who have already offered help for reading, cooking and gardening, we really do appreciate the time you spend with us. If anyone else would like to come and help support the children in their learning please let a member of the team know.

## Follow the Blog -

We are continually updating our blog, so for up to the minute news from the year 4 classroom please log on to the school website to view.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Samantha Johnson  
Year 4 Class Teacher



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