Dear Parents / Carers, Friday 27th January 2017

Welcome back to a brand new term! I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information about the expectations I have for your child in Year 4, and the curriculum that they will be following throughout term 2.

 **Topics for the Spring Term**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| R.E - Come and See | CommunityGiving and ReceivingSelf Discipline |
| Science | Good VibrationsSwitched on |
| P.E | Games-RugbyGymnastics |
| Topic | Non-European country-South America, (Amazon Rainforest)Compare Cronton and El Salvador(Central America)Fair Trade |
| ICT | Making GamesBack to the Future |
| D.T. | Musical Instruments |
| Maths | Identify equivalent fractionsAdd & subtract fractions with common denominatorsRecognise common equivalentsRound decimals to whole numbersSolve money problems.Estimate & calculate measures.Identify acute, obtuse & right angles. |
| English | Use commas after front adverbialsAdverbial phrasesClauses in sentences. Use wider range of conjunctions |
| Class Books | Wind in the Willows by Kenneth GrahameKensuke’s Kingdom – Michael MorpurgoCharles Dickens-David CopperfieldThe Hero Twins-Mayan Myth and Legend |
| Music | Violin |
| MFL | French |

**Religious Education Programme**

Within ‘come and See’ this term, the children will be studying the three themes of Local church (Community), Eucharist (Relating) and Lent/Easter (Giving). The children will also spend one week studying Islam.

**Just a few reminders**

**The books we study in Year 4 are:**

Class Author- Ellen Coldecott

Class Book- Kensuke’s Kingdom – Michael Morpurgo

Roald Dahl-The BFG

Shakespeare-Twelfth Night

Charles Dickens-

Poet-Paul Delaney

Poem- My Mysterious Moggy by Paul Delaney

Charles Dickens-David Copperfield

**Reading Books and Diaries**

All books and reading diaries should be in school each day and will be collected on a Monday to monitor how much children are reading at home. Once your child has finished a book they will be given the opportunity to change their books.

**Punctuality/Absence**

The children should line up at 8.55am on the playground unless it is raining heavily, in which case, classroom doors will be opened a little earlier. It is your responsibility to supervise them up until this point. Any child arriving after the class has entered the classroom at 8.55am needs to go to the main door to be signed in by Mrs Featherstone. If for any reason your child is absent from school, please contact us to let us know. This can now be done through the Parent App. If we do not hear from you, Mrs Featherstone, our Learning Mentor, will ring to find out why your child is absent. If you need to collect your child at any time in the day for an appointment, could you please report to the office and your child will be collected from their classroom.

**School Values**

**Respectful Loving Patient**

**Responsible Honest Forgiveness**

**Code of Conduct**

* Correct school dress must be worn unless there is a particular explained reason. This includes P.E kit.
* Children should not run inside school. They should move around the building in safe and sensible manner.
* At break time, children may eat a piece of fruit or a healthy snack. Sweets and chewing gum are not allowed in school.
* After leaving the building at lunchtime, children should not re-enter the school building without permission.
* Children will show respect to all adults in the school.
* No abusive language is tolerated.
* Jewellery, apart from a wrist watch, is not permitted.
* Nail varnish should not be worn.
* No mobile phones will be allowed in school without permission.

**Praising and rewarding**

As well as Golden Time on a Friday afternoon, the children are encouraged and praised throughout the school day. Praising of good behaviour helps to reinforce the positive behaviours within the classroom to all children. Good behaviour, setting a good example for others, good work and good manners are rewarded. In addition, there are further reward systems in place including the Golden Table, afternoon tea with Mrs Hannah, certificates and a termly achievements assembly where attendance and punctuality are also celebrated.

**Uniform**

The children have returned to school looking very smart – thank you. ☺ Please make sure that all items of uniform are clearly marked with your child’s name to prevent items getting lost. Please also ensure the following:

* Long hair is tied back at all times.
* Black shoes (not sportswear) to be worn by the children.
* Use of a ‘Holy Family’ school bag. (We do not have the room to store large school bags.)
* No earrings / jewellery – watches may be worn

**Homework / Spellings**

Children will receive their homework every Monday. If children have been asked to complete a written task please can it be completed during the week and returned on Friday. The children will receive a Numeracy, Literacy and spelling activity. The new curriculum is demanding more of our children in the way of mental calculations for maths. Homework for maths may therefore be helping your child to develop their mental calculations in the way of recalling number bonds / times tables – including division facts, etc. ready for little assessments on the Friday. They may also receive an activity linked to the current topic being taught in class. From Year 2, children will receive spellings to learn for Friday, which will be words they need to know and will help them to develop their writing further. Spellings will be checked in class on the Friday. We want to keep weekends free for family time as we believe this is very important too!

**Water Bottles and Snacks**

Please encourage your child to bring in a water bottle. They will have opportunities throughout the day to refill their bottle if necessary. Please ensure your child brings their bottle home for washing and brings it back to school refilled in the morning. The children can also bring in a snack to be eaten during break time. Please encourage the children to bring a healthy snack. We do not allow chocolate or sweets for snack.

**Art T-shirts**

Children need to have an old t-shirt or shirt to protect their uniform during art activities. This can be kept in school for the year.

**Book Tree**

As well as our school library the children can also borrow books from the ‘Book Tree’ in the foyer.

As always, if there is anything else you would like to ask about or any concerns you may have, do not hesitate to speak to me any day after school. As I am sure you will understand it is very difficult for me to discuss any issues at 8.55am when I come to collect the children from the playground. I am however, here to help and will make time, preferably after school, to sort out any problems you might have. I, like you, want the children to have an enjoyable and productive year and will do my best to ensure that this happens.

Many thanks,

Mrs Bird and Mrs Gray

**“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”**

**Nelson Mandela**