

Dear Parents,

A belated Happy New Year! We hope you had a lovely holiday. This letter is to give you information about the Spring term, including an exciting new trip. Should you have any further queries you are of course always welcome to book an appointment at the school office to see your child's teacher at any time.

Dates for Your Diary

w/b February 11 th	Spring 1 Spelling Test
February 15 th	Half Term begins
February 25 th	Back to school
March 15 th	Open Afternoon
March 27 th /28 th	Parent Consultations
w/b April 1 st	Spring 2 Spelling Test
April 5 th	End of Term
April 23 rd	Return to school for Term 5

Bushcraft Day

We are delighted to announce this term's Year 4 trip, linking with our new Mountains topic. Each class will have an outdoors 'Bushcraft Day' at Valence School (Brasted Rd, Westerham, TN16 1QN), taking part in a variety of activities which will include shelter building, fire starting, hot-chocolate-making, wood whittling and outdoor art.

The days are:

- 4C – Tuesday 12th March
- 4W – Wednesday 13th March
- 4F – Thursday 14th March

Timings for the day are:

- 8.50am – children in school at normal time
- 9.00am – parent drivers collect children at Reception
- 9.30am – children gather at Valence School
- 10.00-12.00am – activities
- 12-12.45am – lunch
- 12.45 – 2.45pm – activities
- 2.45pm – parent drivers to collect and return to Amherst

The trip will be held at Valence School and will have a total cost of £7 per child. We are asking for parent drivers to help transport the children to and from Valence School. When you pay on School Gateway (www.schoolgateway.com), please indicate whether you are willing to drive and how many children you are able to take.

All children will need to bring in a packed lunch. This trip is entirely outdoors so please ensure your child wears appropriate clothing for the weather on the day. This is likely to include a waterproof coat, wellington boots and plenty of layers.

Topics

This list is not definitive but it gives you a broad outline of the areas being addressed this term. In order to aid your child's research, our topics for the Spring term are:

- **Literacy:**
 - *Little Red Riding Hood* (newspaper recounts)
 - Writing focus based on the *The Chronicles of Narnia* series (C.S. Lewis)
 - *The Firework Maker's Daughter* (Philip Pullman)
 - Whole-school text (to be revealed later this term)

Feel free to purchase a copy of these texts for your child to bring in to school, but please wait to read them until we have introduced them in class.

- **Maths:** Multiplication and Division, Area, Fractions and Decimals
- **Science:** Electricity (circuits) and States of Matter
- **Geography:** Mountains
- **Computing:** Comic Life and Isle of Tune
- **RE:** Christianity – Why is Jesus inspiring to some people?
- **Art:** Hokusai's *Great Wave* and *Mount Fuji* (link to Mountains topic)
- **DT:** Electrical circuits
- **Music:** Djembe Drumming

A full curriculum overview of the year can be found on the Year 4 part of the Amherst School website.

Homework

Maths & English: From this term onwards both Mental Arithmetic (MA) and English homework will be given out on a **Friday**, to be returned at the latest by the following **Wednesday**. Please encourage your child to complete all MA corrections before starting a new test, and to write using our school's cursive script: *abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz*. Information about the different homework activities set can be found on the Amherst School website.

Reading: Your child should be encouraged to read for at least twenty minutes daily whether independently or with an adult. The children must record the book title and the pages read in their new school 'planners'. These books will be checked by the class teacher each week and must be in school daily.

Spelling: Your child will bring home an orange spelling homework book along with our termly spelling list and we would like your child to spend 20 minutes each week showing evidence of regular practice. This may take the form of 'Look, Say, Cover, Write and Check'; mnemonics; rhyme; rainbow writing; pyramid writing; word searches; silly dictations; using images and pictures to aid memory; practical games or Apps on a tablet such as Squeebles. Spring 1 spellings will be tested in the week beginning 11/02/19, Spring 2 spellings in the week beginning 01/04/19.

Unfinished or additional pieces of work may be set at the discretion of the class teacher to be completed at home.

Classroom Equipment

Please can you check with your child that they have all of the necessary equipment in school, including a 30cm ruler, scissors, spare glue and black dry wipe pens. This term we will start to give out 'handwriting licences' to those children who can demonstrate our

school's cursive script accurately and consistently across all work. These children may bring in a fountain or handwriting pen to write in blue ink.

Games and PE

Children should have their PE kit in school every day; please ensure all items are named. You are welcome to send your child in with hats, gloves or additional layers if the weather is particularly cold.

4C	4F	4W
Games on a Wednesday	Games on a Wednesday	Games on a Monday
PE on a Thursday	PE on a Tuesday	PE on a Tuesday

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mr S. Clarke

Miss M. Wonnacott

Miss J. Foinette/Mrs T. Fox