

7th September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 4. We hope that you have had a relaxing summer. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your children over this first week of term and have been so impressed by their fantastic behaviour and positive attitude. This letter is intended to answer some of the questions you may have at this stage of term. We will be able to expand on this information at the 'Meet the Teacher' evening on **18th September** from 5.00 – 6.00pm. This session will be an opportunity to meet the Year 4 teachers and to find out important information such as routines, expectations and exciting events in the year ahead. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to make an appointment via the school office if you need to see us.

Dates for Your Diary18th September (5pm) – 'Meet the Teacher' evening28th September – British Heart Foundation Swim12th October – School Photographs18th October (2.45pm) – Open Afternoon6th and 7th November – Individual Parents' Evening**Reading Help!**

We would really appreciate any help with hearing children read and we invite any enthusiastic mums, dads and grandparents to volunteer weekly. The children love to read with an adult and it serves to build their fluency, understanding and confidence. Reading in Year 4 will be every **Friday** afternoon. Please let your class teacher know in writing if you are able to help for any length of time between 2.00pm and 3.30pm.

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 Autumn Term are:

● **English:**

- *The Minpins* (Roald Dahl – our current topic)
- *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers* (Mordicai Gerstein)
- *Aesop's Fables* (Michael Morpurgo)
- *Coming Home* and *Where My Wellies Take Me* (Michael Morpurgo)

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:** Place Value, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division, Length and Perimeter
- **Science:** Animals including Humans (teeth and digestion)
- **History:** Ancient Egyptians
- **ICT:** Introduction to Coding (using www.code.org)

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

Homework

Maths & English: This term the homework will alternate between Mental Arithmetic (MA) and English. Each week, homework will be given out on a **Friday**, to be returned at the latest by the following **Wednesday**. It is imperative that all MA corrections be completed before starting a new test, and that all written work is completed to the high standard of presentation and content we would expect in the classroom. If you have not already done so, please cover your child's book in plastic so as to keep it in a good condition throughout the year. Information about the different homework activities 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. These spellings will be tested at the end of each term: Autumn 1 in the week beginning 08/10/18 and Autumn 2 in the week beginning 03/12/18. Unfinished or additional pieces of work may be set at the discretion of the class teacher to be completed at home.

School Equipment

- **New for Year 4:** a set of coloured fine liners, a few highlighters, black dry wipe pens
- A pencil case with HB pencils, coloured pencils, sharpener, glue stick (please remember to replace these when they run out), scissors, 30cm ruler (non-flexible) and a rubber. Stationery packs are available from the school office at £8.00.
- A dictionary and thesaurus

Games and PE

Children should have their PE kit in school every day; please ensure all items are named.

- **New for Year 4:** Football or hockey boots (soft studs), shin pads and knee-high navy socks
- Trainers (in wet weather, clean trainers or plimsoles for indoor sports)
- Amherst or plain navy t-shirt and shorts
- White socks
- Navy blue school sweatshirt and navy blue jogging trousers for cold weather (optional)
- Swimming trunks for boys / one piece for girls; swimming hats, goggles and a towel for everyone

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

The days for Games may swap later this term, since each class will for a time have the opportunity to work with specialist rugby and handball coaches.

The Year 4 staff are very much looking forward to a busy and productive year with your children. Many thanks for your support,

Mr S. Clarke

Miss M. Wonnacott

Miss J. Foinette/Mrs T. Fox