

Autumn Newsletter

Year 4



Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to the new school year. I hope you have all had an enjoyable time over the summer break. I have an exciting term planned for your child and hope they enjoy learning through the varied experiences we are going to have.

Our main topic this term is Victorians. Our studies will centre around the book "Street Child" by Berlie Doherty. We will be working in a cross-curricular style, linking subjects together as much as possible. I have organised a class trip linked to Victorians to the Blists Hill Victorian town at the Ironbridge Museum. The children will be learning about what life was like for a Victorian child. This is a fantastic living museum and is a great opportunity for us all to learn in a more hands on way that isn't always available in school. As a school we understand that our exciting trips have a cost implication and the school is willing to subsidise the trip to keep the costs down. Having said this, the cost will be in the region of £15- £16 per child. I will endeavour to keep the costs of our future school trips to a minimum. We always welcome parents to come along and help us, so please let me know if you would like to come.

Throughout the term we will be concentrating on improving our standards of presentation, spelling and constructing different types of sentences. The children will also be encouraged to read a wide range of texts to continue improving their fluency, understanding and deduction skills. I would be grateful if you would continue reading with your child for enjoyment and to ensure they are reading with understanding and fluency.

In maths, times tables are vitally important if the children are going to make good progress.

I will be teaching the children written methods of all four calculations: \div \times $+$ $-$ and then giving them opportunity to apply this to different types of problems. Using the internet games or board games can help reinforce them in a fun and enjoyable way.

Labelled PE kits should be in school every day, please. Our regular PE days will be Tuesday and Wednesday. However, during the first term the children will be swimming at the high school on Thursday so this will replace the Tuesday PE session. I would take this opportunity to remind you that, during the colder months, pupils can bring in tracksuits for outdoor PE. Long hair should be tied back and earrings removed or covered. I would be grateful if you could supply your child with micro-pore or similar if they need to cover earrings.

We prepare for early morning activities for the class from 8:50am and would encourage your child to access these by coming in as soon as they can from this time. Registers are taken at 9:00am.

We encourage children to bring in labelled water bottles to access during the day (no glass or screw lid bottles please). Children are expected to refill these during their playtimes and lunchtimes should they need to.

Homework will be sent home weekly on the day that your child receives their guided reading and will be expected to be returned by the following guided reading lesson. Spellings will be sent out weekly and they will be tested on the Friday.

- Spellings - these need practising and learning thoroughly.
- Guided reading - one piece each week.
- Numeracy - will be set on our new My Maths web based learning resource. The children will have a log in and will be able to complete homework and play games.
- Occasionally there may be some theme based homework. This will mainly be research and more creative.
- We will also be using our school website more, to begin online homework such as: blogs, discussion pieces and wiki's

Excalibur's learning platform allows access to the resource Purple Mash, which the children will be accessing in lesson time throughout the year. The ranges of activities are great and we recommend that you have a look with your child if you have access to the internet. Also on the Year 4 page of the learning platform, there is information of the range of activities we will be engaged with throughout this term.

You are warmly invited to a short meeting for Year 4 parents on **Wednesday 10th September at 4.00pm**. I will be giving a short presentation expanding on the contents of this letter: Outlining what to expect this year; routines in Year 4 and ways you can support your child's learning at home. The meeting will last approximately 30 minutes and will be held in the Year 4 classroom.

Finally, should you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate in contacting me either before or after school.

I look forward to a fabulous year working with you and your child and hope to see you next Wednesday.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Cotterill.