

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## **Year 4 Information Letter**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to wish you all a very warm welcome to Year 4! The aim of this letter is to provide you with key information about events and expectations this year. The attached Topic Web will also provide further information about the learning that is planned in the first term.

### **Staff Team**

In Year 4, we work as one team, often coming together during lesson times and mixing up between the classes for lessons and events. Here is an outline of the staff who will be working alongside your children this year:

**Miss Salih** (Teacher of 4S)

**Mr Jamieson** (Teacher of 4J)

**Miss Hoth** (Year 4 Teaching Assistant)

**Mrs Samuel** – PPA Cover (Monday fortnightly)

**Miss Noble** – PPA Cover (Monday fortnightly, Friday in 4J)

**Mrs Lelean** – Music Provision

**Mrs Law** – French Provision

### **Year 4 Aims and Expectations**

The aim of this year is to work hard, enjoy school and challenge themselves to become more independent. It is the year of their first residential trip and we have high expectations of the children's behaviour and attitude. We hope this will give them the chance to show their increased maturity as they move through the school.

### **Topics and Learning**

Autumn Term – ***Raiders and Invaders***

Key texts – “Escape From Pompeii” and “Beowulf”

Spring Term – ***Ice Worlds***

Key text – “Ice Trap – Shackleton Story”

Summer Term – ***A World in One Forest***

Key Text – “Running Wild”

### **Reading**

Reading continues to be a priority for our children. We understand that not all children are avid readers, but we do require them to read three times per week, independently or with you! We ask that they log this reading in their Reading Records, which will be checked every Wednesday. They are very welcome to bring in books from home, but if a child wants to choose a book from our library, this is encouraged.

By choosing rich core texts, linked to our topics, we aim to embed the Reading requirements of the curriculum into English lessons. Within these lessons, children will have a chance to discuss plot, character and authorial techniques, helping to develop comprehension skills, as well as the ability to infer and deduce information from texts, and to transfer these skills into their own writing, becoming mini-authors in their own right!

We will also use drama to immerse children into our texts, promoting greater empathy and understanding, as well as boosting the confidence of our classes.

### Maths

The children will be accessing maths through the Maths Mastery approach this year. This approach affords more time to each area of maths and promotes the development of children's fluency, reasoning and problem solving skills.

Children need to be secure in their times tables. We are introducing Times Tables Rock Stars: a programme that encourages all to improve their times tables skills. In order to do their best, the children must make an effort to be secure by practising them. We will inform you and the children as to which "times table" we are working on and testing each week.

We will continue to teach and practise written methods in class. It is important the children get used to showing their working out wherever possible so please do encourage this when your children are completing any maths homework.

### PE

Even though it is timetabled, PE can happen on any day so please make sure your child has a labelled PE kit in school every day, along with **trainers and warm, waterproof layers for when we head into the colder months**. We aim to get outside as much as we can.

### Extending the curriculum

We also take every opportunity to extend the curriculum by taking up all appropriate offers from other organisations. Here are some events the children have to look forward to:

- Roman experience day
- Visit to Butser Ancient Farm
- Brazil day
- Year 4 Residential Trip to Hindleap in the Spring Term

### Homework

- The amount of time suggested that your child spends on their homework in Year 4 is 45 minutes per week, not including reading, times tables practise and additional spelling tasks.
- We try to set interesting and relevant homework and we always accompany the task with clear guidance notes.
- Homework is set on Fridays and we expect it to be handed in by the following Wednesday.

### Contact details

Ms Salih: [serminsalih@st-andrews.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:serminsalih@st-andrews.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

Mr Jamieson: [alastairjamieson@st-andrews.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:alastairjamieson@st-andrews.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

We are both looking forward to a fantastic year working alongside your children and we hope this letter has given you some useful information about the months ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Year 4 Team