



Hatfield Heath Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 4! I hope you enjoyed the Summer break and are ready and eager to start a new year. Having spent a year just next door to the children, I have got to know some of them already, so I'm very excited to get to know all of them individually. I have heard nothing but good things and am looking forward to working with them.

We have a busy time ahead of us this term with lots of new and exciting topics to explore. This letter aims to outline the main areas we will be covering so that, if you wish, you may help your children at home with finding out information or getting books from the library.

In English this term, we will be making lots of cross-curricular links to support the children's writing, particularly with our History topic 'The Romans'. The children will be developing their skills in writing using text types such as: stories with historical settings, recounts and free verse poetry. The children will also be furthering their learning through study of the technical aspects of writing such as: showing emotion within writing, creating images, using metaphors and using powerful verbs in speech. It is very important to bear in mind the link between reading and writing – the more imaginative and exciting the stories they read are, the more imaginative and exciting their writing will be. If you know your child struggles with writing, encourage them to 'magpie' ideas and vocabulary from the stories they read. It will make a big difference to the content and quality of their writing.

The children will be given spellings on a Monday to be tested on the following Monday. Home learning will also be given on a Monday to be handed in on the Friday. We will also set ourselves a 'Reading Challenge' in which the children will be rewarded for reading more than 3 times in a week at home. These points can only be received if each entry from an adult is recorded separately and signed. Unfortunately we cannot reward points with comments such as: 'He/she has read lots over the weekend' as this would count as one entry. The children will be continuing with 'Guided Reading' as this helps their discussion and comprehension techniques. Reading is taught through weekly guided reading sessions with the class teachers as well as forming part of every English lesson with whole class shared texts and comprehension tasks. May we take this opportunity to remind you that it is extremely important to continue reading and discussing books with your child at home, paying

particular attention to inferring and deducing what is written 'between the lines' as this is a skill that children find particularly tricky, the more complex the text becomes.

In Maths, we will be continuing our work on place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and shape. We will be looking at these areas not just in their simplest form but through complex word problems too. It is important for us to remind you that as the children progress through the school, Maths assessments use more and more language within their questions. This means that children have to search through the problem and pull out the important information. Any extra work you complete at home that is practical and has lots of discussion involved increases your child's ability to understand the language surrounding the word problems they come across within assessments. The times table format is slightly different than in Year 3 whereby the children do not simply get one times table to learn each week but must complete 3 within a given time. For this reason we start again from 2s, 10s and 5s to ensure that children have learnt their times tables thoroughly and not just memorised one times table, moved on to the next and then forgotten the previous! We appreciate that some children have whizzed through their times tables in Year 3 however it is important that we consolidate. Children will also be encouraged to learn the corresponding division facts. We'd also like to bring to your attention that children are expected to know and recall all times tables from 1 to 12 by the end of Year 4 as part of the curriculum. The children will be tested on their times tables every Monday.

In other areas of the curriculum we will be looking at Science, where the children will learn more about the digestive system and different teeth types, making observations to compare the teeth of herbivores, carnivores and omnivores and discussing possible reasons for differences.

In Computing, the children will explore E-safety. This is taught every year to ensure that all children know how to stay safe online and learn the rules of how to behave when using the internet.

In History we will be focusing on the topic of the Romans, which is our overarching topic of the term extending to other areas of the curriculum.

In Geography, we will be studying the human and physical characteristics of settlement, land use, economics and natural resources.

In PSHCE, we will be looking at a new area of the curriculum: Citizenship. The children will learn to recognise their own worth and identify positive things about themselves and others as well as understanding and practising good communication skills, effective listening, confident expression of opinions and questioning skills.

PE this term focuses on the skills involved in Netball and Gymnastics. PE lessons will take place on Mondays and Fridays. Earrings cannot be worn in PE and should be removed on PE days.

In Art, we will be studying portraits and will learn about the skills involved in shading and making features look 3D. In DT, the children will be learning to design and make their own healthy snack, with a focus on pizza toppings, which is always a very popular lesson with the children!

We will be holding open afternoons throughout the year for parents to come in and see the children's work and chat to them about what they've been learning. Further details will follow for dates to visit this term. Please also refer to the school newsletters or website for important dates for your diaries such as parents' evenings, school clubs, events, etc. Can I also remind you to place names inside all clothing to ensure its safe return should an item get lost. Please refer to our school newsletter on the size of your child's school bag. Our cloakrooms are rather small and pegs are close together, which can cause problems if bags are too big for the space. Also, we actively encourage the children to drink water throughout the day so please supply a suitable water bottle with your child's name on.

If you have any questions relating to any of the topics we are covering, please do not hesitate to come and see me. Similarly, if you have any other concerns regarding your child, please make an appointment to see me.

Yours truly,

Mrs C Gray