**Year 4 – Class Newsletter**

**Autumn 2017**

Welcome back to a new school year. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer break. This newsletter gives a brief overview of what we will be up to this term, but, as always, if there is anything else you need to know just come in and ask. After school is always the best time to catch us as mornings can be a bit busy!

**Topic – Please see the attached topic web for an overview of what we are up to in our topic work this term.**

**Homework**

I have attached the homework grid for the first half of the autumn term. There are 4 compulsory tasks (shaded purple) to be completed over the course of the half term. The due dates for each piece of homework are set out on the homework grid. For the remaining weeks of the half term, children should choose one of the other (non-shaded) tasks.

**Reading**

We continue to read regularly in class in lessons, guided reading and quiet reading time. Children should also be reading for 20-25 minutes each night and record this in their Reading Records.

It is important that children continue to read at home and if children have a regular habit of reading at home for pleasure this has a beneficial impact on both their reading attainment and also other areas such as writing. If your child is struggling to find books that grab their interest please don’t hesitate to pop in for a chat as I am always happy to try to help with suggestions of things that may help to find something they enjoy.

**Spellings**

Spellings will be sent home each Monday for children to learn and will be tested on the following Monday. Each child has a spelling practice book to take home each week to practise their spellings. Spelling practice books should be handed in each Monday morning please.

**Times tables**

Children need to learn all their times tables (up to and including 12 x 12) by heart. We practise times tables each week in school, however, in order for these to ‘stick’ it is very important that practise is continued regularly at home. Practise sessions do not need to be long or formal, a couple of minutes here and there whilst in the car or queueing in the supermarket is all it takes but if done regularly this really pays off in helping your child to achieve this learning.

Each week we will have a different times table focus. Children will be given a times table focus each Thursday and will be tested on it the following Tuesday.

**Mathletics**

Tasks are set weekly on Mathletics for each child in order to develop and consolidate the maths we are learning in school. Accessing Mathletics is one of the tasks on the homework grid this term as an ongoing task for children to access as often as possible to try to obtain the highest points score they can over the half term.

**Home School Record**

Each child has a Home School Record in which they write down key dates/ times tables etc. Please could I ask you to check the Home School record regularly.

**PE**

Our PE days are **Tuesday and Thursday**. Children should keep their P.E. kit in school at all times, just in case we have extra P.E. sessions or we have to change our day. Please ensure that your child’s kit is clearly labelled and that they have shoes and clothing suitable for indoor and outdoor use.

**Forest Schools**

We will be continuing our Forest Schools programme this term. Confirmation of the dates for Year 4 children will be sent home separately.

In order to participate in Forest Schools, children will need suitable footwear (e.g. wellies/ walking boots), waterproof top and trousers, jogging bottoms and a long-sleeved top. Please bear in mind that clothes are likely to get a little muddy during these sessions!

Many thanks for all your support,

Mrs Fineran and Mrs Craig