10th September 2021

Dear Parents,

Firstly, welcome back to school!

A very warm welcome to Year 4, this year Mrs Wood will be teaching 4 days a week, with Mrs Medlin leading Mondays. We have Mrs Stevens as our teaching assistant every morning.

We hope this letter will give you a brief overview of what the next half term will look like. There is an open evening scheduled in a few weeks’ time, where you will have an opportunity to ask more questions, see the classroom and get more information about how you can support your child throughout Year 4. Keep a look out for emails, or in newsletter for date confirmation.

**What does a typical day look like?**

A typical day will always start with reading, AR quizzing, spelling practice or handwriting practice. Once everyone is settled, the morning will begin with either English or maths with this swapping after mid-morning break. Within our morning slot, we will also squeeze in handwriting 4 times a week, daily times table practice and other independent activities. Afternoons will consist of our foundation subjects. Each week, there will be P.E, PSHE, and RE as the statutory subjects. We will then fit around these commitments with regular quiet reading, Geography, History, French, Music, art/DT and Science.

The most important thing for you to notice will be our P.E days! **P.E days will be Monday and Thursday. Please ensure your child has a complete, named PE kit in school, with a sensible pair of shoes or trainers. Please wear PE kit to school on a Monday.** Thursdays will consist of sailing at the Helford and Monday afternoons will be led by Mr Mutsears with specialist P.E sessions.

**Thursday sailing your child will require wetsuit and wetsuit shoes/boots or old trainers that can get wet. They will also need a towelling robe or similar to keep warm on the way home or change under if we have the time. (there are no changing facilities at the trust).**

**What about reading books?**

In Year 4, the expectation is to read at least 5 times a week, please sign or initial your child’s diary every time you hear them read. There will be a ‘diary check’ on a Monday morning, where if your child has met the 5X a week requirement, their name will get into the golden box with a chance to win a prize on a Friday!

Regular reading with your child will be paramount to their success in Year 4 and further into their primary education. The wealth of sentence structures, and vocabulary they will have access to, will in turn enhance their own written work.

Star test assessments have been completed this week and your child’s current reading age and colour has been updated into their reading diaries.

We actively encourage the children to be independent when choosing their books from our school library, but we will support their choices when and where needed!

**How about spellings?**

Spellings should be practiced daily, we have a class spelling test on a Monday- the aim would be to get at least 7 out of 10 correct. New spellings will be issued into reading diaries on a Monday too. In Year 4, the children practice spellings daily but using a variety of methods- often word searches, puzzles etc. Do not forget each child has their own log in now to spelling shed and so can practice their weekly words online whilst at home too.

**What other learning will be taking place?**

Literacy for this half term, will be learning about Diary writing and cross curricular within our topic of Anglo- Saxons. There will be a lot of revision around the year 3 expectations regarding grammar and sentence structure. Once we are secure we will continue to consolidate this and move forward with some new areas of grammar to enhance writing. Maths will be place value and number to begin with.

In Geography, the children will be learning about the European region, known as Scandinavia. Particularly understanding physical and human features. In History, the learning will focus on the topic of Anglo- Saxons, the children will develop an awareness of Anglo- Saxons as raiders and invaders, and aspects of Anglo- Saxon life. There will also be an opportunity to find out about Sutton Hoo. The Science coverage will be about electricity, understanding safety, making simple circuits and exploring conducting and insulating materials.

Our R.E learning is about the Holy Trinity and baptism.

French we will recap what was learnt in Year 3, we will start with greetings, getting to know you, and numbers.

Music and computing will also be taught. Computing will be coding and e-safety. Music will all be focused about 70’s pop and ABBA!

PSHE will be around becoming a class team, and understanding the roles that individuals have within the school community e.g. being a school citizen and democracy of school councils. However, we will be constantly discussing our wellbeing and supporting children where and when needed.

**How can I help my child?**

* Daily reading and spelling practice.
* Times tables are a MUST to practice please. I know it seems very dull and boring, but it is essential that your child knows all times tables before June, when there will be national times tables tests as set by the government. It does of course, enable them to much more fluent with their every day maths learning, if they know their tables off by heart.
* Communication- keep us in the loop! Home, school communication together is vital to help us to support your child and vice versa. Covid restrictions may make this a little more challenging for us at times, but please do put any messages into the reading diaries, or leave messages with Sophie in the office.

We are very much looking forward to working with your child for the year ahead and getting back into some new routines!

Kind regards,

Mrs Nikki Wood, Mrs Helen Medlin and Mrs Audrey Stevens.