



LONG CLOSE SCHOOL

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8 September 2017

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Year 4 Autumn Term 2017

We are delighted to welcome you to Year 4! This year will be particularly busy and the children will be covering a variety of interesting and fascinating topics. Here is a brief overview.

English: Grammar, punctuation, spelling, handwriting and reading will remain a high priority. As in Year 3, spellings will be taught in differentiated spelling groups.

Please continue to hear your child read daily. They have received a Reading Record book so that reading comments can be communicated between home and school. Your child should also be aiming to read more widely from books of his or her choice, in order to further develop their interest and vocabulary. Each week, your child will be heard both read individually and in a small group situation, to help develop their fluency and understanding of a variety of texts. We will begin a new reading competition starting Monday 11th September, to encourage the children to read regularly at home to an adult. It is vital that every child is heard read on a nightly basis. Children who read well also write well!

Our aim, in creative writing, is to develop your child's imagination and to give them the tools to create wonderfully descriptive pieces of writing that are a joy to read.

Mathematics: This year we will continue to work in differentiated ability groups to enable each child to reach their mathematical potential. It is important that all the children are fluent in their times tables to 12 x 12, as this allows them to access all the topics covered. There will be weekly times table tests and mental arithmetic tests, which will develop their problem solving skills.

Science: 'Dangers to living things' will be studied for the first part of term and 'Human Nutrition' for the latter part.

History: 'The Anglo-Saxons' is our topic for the whole term. Any books, artefacts etc. that you may have and wish to lend will be gratefully received.

Geography: The children will begin by reading and interpreting a range of maps of the UK and the world. This will be followed by the topic of water. This will include the water cycle as well as discussing how we use water, where our water comes from and the work of Water Aid. This topic will also be related to current affairs and cross curricular with our science topic 'Dangers to living things'.

Art: Children will learn a variety of sketching techniques and apply these to still drawings. Kandinsky will be an artist that we will focus on this term.

Design and Technology: Creating Pop-up story books with moving parts will be our main focus this term.

Music: Singing will include more challenging repertoire with part singing and harmony. Preparation for Harvest Festival and the Carol Service provide opportunities to develop performance skills.

Spanish: Greetings; going to school; weather; days of the week; food; expressing opinions.

Religious Studies: During the first part of term, we will be concentrating on a topic called 'Religions in Our Neighbourhood' in which we will be thinking about the different religions in our school and the community. For the second half of term, we will look at journeys from the Christmas story.

ICT: Writing for a different audience (word processing) and developing images using repeated patterns (graphics).

PE: Tennis and Gymnastics.

Games: Boys – Rugby, Girls – Hockey.

Homework

There will be one piece of homework, per night, from a variety of subjects including English, maths, science, geography and history, which children will record in their homework diary. 30-45 minutes should be spent completing this work. Please do not spend any longer than this on the given task. If all the set work has not been completed, then can you add a note into the diary to inform us?

It would be wonderful if you could check and sign the homework diary, on a daily basis, as it often contains important information or letters. The diary is also for you to communicate with us, so if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to write it in here, or come and see us.

Year 4 calendar dates:

Tuesday 12th September - Introductory evening to Year 4 and information regarding Ufton Court trip

Thursday 2nd November - Year 4 Residential trip to Ufton Court (1 night)

Monday 13th November - Year 4 Assembly

Many thanks for your continued support. We look forward to working closely with you and your children.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Rees and Miss Malocca

**Mrs Rees and Miss Malocca
Year 4 Teachers**