Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first half term of Year Four! Below is some information about the coming half term, and a few other important pieces of useful information.

**Our Topic: Game On!**

In our topic this half term, the children will be designing, creating and evaluating their own computer game. Throughout the term, they will be learning how to use a range of software as well as exploring how to stay safe online.

**Key Dates:**

* Wednesday 4th September: First day of term
* Friday 20th September: Jeans for Genes day
* Friday 27th September: INSET Day. School not open for children.
* Thursday 3rd October: Harvest Festival 2.30-3.30pm. All welcome.
* Monday 21st – Friday 25th October – Personal Development Week
* Friday 25th October: Last day of term
* Monday 28th October- Friday 1st November HALF TERM break
* Monday 4th November: Term starts

**Things to Remember**

Our **PE lesson will be on MONDAYS**. Please ensure you child has full PE kit with trainers (plimsolls really aren’t suitable at this age to support their feet or be weather proof if we are outside). **Long hair should be tied up and earrings taken out or tape supplied to tape them (they have to do this themselves)**

**Wednesday afternoons we will be going swimming.** Please send your child in with their kit and towel in a bag. We supply swim caps and have spare goggles (unless your child has their own goggles) Long hair should be tied up in such as way that is easy to fit into a swim cap! Please keep an eye out for separate correspondence about this.

**Reading at Home**

Reading is a vital part of the children’s education and it is expected that they read at least three times a week but we do ask for every day ideally, whether that is to an adult or by themselves. Reading certificates will be awarded in celebration assemblies for the number of times the children have read and to monitor this the children or adults will need to record this in their reading record, numbering each entry: 50 entries – bronze reading award, 100 entries – silver reading award, 150 entries – gold reading award.

Key questions you could discuss with your child when reading:

🡪 What subject specific vocabulary can you find?

🡪 What does it mean?

🡪 Why is this text laid out like this?

🡪 Why are paragraphs used?

🡪 What have you learned from the text?

🡪 Do you prefer fiction (story) or non-fiction (factual) texts? Why?

🡪 Can you find the headings and sub-headings? Why are they there? (non-fiction)

**Homework**

Spellings and Mental Maths (including times tables)

Spellings and mental maths activities need to be complete every day at home. Homework will be differentiated to meet the needs of each child.

* Spellings – children will practise their spellings every night using the **look, say, cover, write, check** technique. Children will receive the same spellings for two weeks to promote depth. In the second week, children can challenge themselves to write their spelling words in sentences.
* Mental Magicians (including times tables) – children are encouraged to practise these daily however they wish to. These can be written down, practised orally, or any other way which helps your child such as listening to songs and rhymes or playing games. They will still have their Mental Magicians target.
* Maths work – as per Year 3, children will get pages to complete in the White Rose homework book every week. This will be related to work in class. Some children will receive other work more suited to them.
* Handwriting – children will be working hard in class to improve their joined handwriting, in order to work on this at home please be reminded that you and your child have free access to our handwriting website: https://www.letterjoin.co.uk. The username is **ak3814** and the password is **home**.

And finally, please remember that your role in your child’s education is crucial. If you would like more information, or would like to become more involved in school (e.g. as a reader or as a helper on a school trip), or if you have any artefacts or resources to offer the school, it is always greatly appreciated. If you have any concerns or queries you may either email the office or cwoods18@lyminster.w-sussex.sch.uk (Ms Woods) and we will respond as quickly as possible.

Kind regards,

The Year 4 Team