Wednesday 9th January

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have had a relaxing Christmas break and the children have enjoyed themselves. The children have settled back into their school routine well and are ready to work hard this term! This letter includes an outline of the curriculum areas we will be studying over the next few weeks and any other important information relating to year 4 but please, as always, feel free to come into school and speak to me about anything you are unsure of or if you have any questions about year 4 or your child.

Water

Please can I encourage you to send your child to school with a clear, labelled water bottle filled with water. Many children complain of headaches during the day and this often seems to be related to their liquid intake. Water keeps pupils hydrated and research has shown this can help with concentration. I will try to send water bottles home each night to be washed through.

## English and Maths

The teaching of English and maths continues to follow the national curriculum and children will take part in a daily lesson in both subjects. Literacy and numeracy skills are also practised in other areas of the curriculum such as science or through our topic work. There is a daily handwriting and spelling session too.

The children will read to themselves at the start of every day and an adult will listen to them read during guided reading or individually each week. Although most are independent readers, I will keep an eye on what they are reading to make sure it is the appropriate level and suitable for them. Sometimes we encourage children to read ‘easier’ books to develop their comprehension skills.

Strive for 5

I am encouraging the children to all ‘strive for 5’. This means we would like them to read 5 times a week at home, either to themselves or to an adult. They need to get an adult to sign their reading record to say they have read. This will give them points and they will get a small prize for completing this challenge. Reading 5 times a week at home really supports children in developing their fluency and comprehension skills. If you have any concerns about your child’s reading or reading book, please pop in and see me.

A Midsummer Night’s Dream

In English over the next 4 weeks, our learning will focus around the Shakespeare play – A Midsummer Night’s Dream. I am hoping to make this into a production that you will be invited in to watch. There are so many talented actors, singers and dancers in this class that I would like to give them the opportunity to share their talents. I will keep you informed of how we are getting on and dates for the production!

Science

There will be a different science topic each half term taken from the National Curriculum, where the children will take part in a variety of activities from research to experiments. This term our topics will be ‘Electricity’ and ‘States of Matter’.

## Computing

Year 4 will be using the computers, laptops and our class I-Pad on a regular basis to support their learning. We will also be focusing on using computers to help us research topics, particularly during our history and geography lessons. This term our topics are ‘animation’ and ‘Turtle Logo’.

## National Curriculum and RE

Following the National Curriculum, we will be involved in finding out and learning about a number of different topics this term. In art, we will developing our painting skills and painting props and scenery for our production. We will be studying and finding out about ‘Ancient Greece’ in history next half term and in geography this half term, we will be learning about the UK and counties in our country. In Design and Technology, we will be making a torch and in music, singing and learning focuses on singing and music for our production. Children are involved in the daily act of worship in assembly and RE this term will focus on Islam, the prophet Muhammad and Christian crosses from around the world.

## PE and Games

PE sessions will take place on Wednesday afternoons (tennis) and Thursday afternoons (dance). Kit comprises of a white t-shirt, blue shorts and trainers or plimsolls. Children can bring in tracksuits or warm clothes for tennis and trainers as it will take place outside. After half term the children will have the opportunity to take part in a weekly yoga session too.

## Homework

Children will receive a small amount of homework each week, which will usually be sent home on Fridays and needs to be back in on Wednesday (to allow time for marking and sticking in the next piece). Please could you support the work we are doing in school by listening to your child read regularly at home and helping them with their homework. They will also receive spellings and multiplication tables to learn for a spelling test each Friday.

Medical

Please notify us if your child has developed any new medical concerns or allergies. If they are asthmatic, please send in an inhaler that is clearly labelled, in case of an emergency. Some of the inhalers in school are out of date so please check with me that I have an in-date inhaler.

Please feel free to come in and talk to us if you have any concerns about your child or questions about school or the work we are doing. You can pop-in after school or arrange an appointment at the office.

Kind regards

Jenny Redhead Bozena Waring

Year 4 class teacher Year 4 teacher assistant