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Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you have had a good break. Thank you so much for your kind cards and presents as ever they were very much appreciated.

Just like last term, Mrs Scott will teach the class on Mondays and Tuesdays, Miss Heath on Thursdays and Fridays and Wednesdays will be alternated. Mrs Akers and Mrs Bevan will teach on Wednesday afternoons. We are delighted to share with you that, from the middle of January, Miss Danielles will be returning to Year 4 on Mondays and Tuesdays, while Mrs Lindsay will work Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. All the staff members working with the class know the children very well, which is providing a calm classroom in which all the children are flourishing. Miss Ollier also hopes to return in January to continue her voluntary TA position every Monday.

Our 15-minute break time remains at 10.30am and lunch is at 12.15pm. If your child wishes to purchase snack at morning break, this can be paid for via your Parent Pay account. School dinners are still ordered at morning registration, for those not in receipt of Pupil Premium, these remain at £2.80. Children may choose to bring a healthy snack and/or packed lunch if they prefer.

Year 4 will return to doing P.E. on a Monday and Wednesday afternoon and children should wear their school P.E. kit ALL DAY. As the weather is often cold and wet, plain black or navy jogging bottoms are a good choice. They may also wear our school hoodie. We will move our P. E. sessions into the hall in the very worst weather, but this is not always possible.

There are some slight changes to our expectation of homework:

- Read for the Stars is launching in Key Stage 2 from January. Those with younger children will be familiar with this already. Each child will have a track of stars stuck into the back of their reading diary and every time their diary is signed by an adult at home, they will be allowed to colour in a star. At certain points along the way, the children will earn wow moments, house points and sweets. After 25 reads, they will be able to choose a prize. As a class, our percentage of those reading 3 or more times a week has massively improved this year – well done and thank you for your support! Our new system will allow all children the chance to be regularly rewarded, rather than the lucky few in our reading raffle.
- Our Top Ten Challenge remains. There are some really beautiful and exciting books in the Year 4 challenge, and we have enjoyed reading the reviews written so far.
- A TTRS battle will be set weekly. Not many children take part in this at home, so please encourage them to do so. They have thoroughly enjoyed playing in school and it really is great practice for the Times Table Test that every Year 4 child must take in June.
- Athletics homework is set weekly and, again, really benefits the children's learning of core skills.

We have moved towards celebrating those children who complete their homework, presenting certificates and treats, rather than penalising those who don't. However, all homework is set to support learning. We have identified our Year 4 class as one which has missed vital skills due to two lockdowns during their Key Stage 1 years, when the building blocks are put in place. Please support your child in completing their homework tasks; it makes their experience in the classroom so much easier for them.

Here are some helpful dates for the Spring term:

Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	One World Many Cultures Day – China Focus Parents are to be invited into school in the afternoon to see what the children have been up to throughout the day.
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Numeracy Day
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Rags2Riches clothes collection
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Half term
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Class photo
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Class visit to Chester Zoo <i>Please let Mrs Scott know if your child is a member of the zoo</i>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Science week
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	End of term

As always, please contact us, either on the playground at pick up time, or via the school office, should you need to speak to us about anything.

We are very proud of the progress that has been made by the children during Autumn term and are excited to continue exploring our new curriculum as we begin the new term!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Scott and Miss Heath