

September 2018
Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the new school year. Thrilled with how well the children are already settling into their classes, we are looking forward to a super year of learning. This letter contains useful information for you and your child over this coming year.

The start of the day - A reminder that there is a member of staff on duty on the Year 3/4 playground from 8.40am each day. At 8.50am they will line up in their classes and we encourage all parents to then leave the playground. This helps your child's independence from the start of the school day.

THE CURRICULUM

The children are taught in their classes. There are also occasions when we will work together to add variety and share skills. Some children will also participate in smaller groups for focused work. English and Maths follow the objectives of the National Curriculum. Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus.

Our topics for this year are...	Year 3		Year 4	
	Willow Class Mr Hainsworth	Beech Class Mrs Wilson (Mon, Tues) and Mr Walters (Wed-Fri)	Maple Class Mrs Royle	Chestnut Class Mrs Wheeler (Mon, Tues) and Mrs Danton (Wed-Fri)
Terms 1 - 2	Heroic Humans		Pharaoh Nuff	
Terms 3 - 4	Rock 'n' Roll		Under the Canopy	
Terms 5 - 6	Romans on the Rampage		Eco Warriors	

We will send an **overview** as we begin each topic giving more details about the children's learning.

HOMEWORK

Homework is an important part of children's learning. It provides opportunities to reinforce their learning during school time, develops their research skills and having to hand homework in on time helps them to become independent learners.

Maths

Homework is set on **MyMaths** each Friday, normally consolidating the learning for that week. New login details will be sent home in the second week of term.

The expectation of the new curriculum is that all children will be able to recall times table facts for all numbers up to 12 x 12. To help with this, most children will bring home a book of times table workouts.

As well as practising their times tables, children will use a variety of mathematical vocabulary and solve problems using their times tables. Please ensure that your child/children complete only one workout each week, handing their books in on Mondays to be marked and returned to them on Wednesdays. Whilst we understand that some children are unable to access activities set on MyMaths, we do expect all the children to complete their paper-based homework.

English/Topic

Homework will be sent home normally during the second week of the topic. It will be presented as an activity bank of tasks along with the date they are due in. Further instructions will be included with the activities. Focus throughout school is on handwriting and presentation, therefore please encourage your child to take care with their homework, ensuring it is well presented and neat. Please support your child with their tasks but don't do them for them!

Reading

Children in Years 3 & 4 are expected to read daily when possible and answer questions about the text they have read. Please remember to write a comment in the Home Reading Record when you hear your child read. Just as you enjoy hearing your child read, he or she also enjoys hearing you read so please take time to share a book.

Spelling

We believe that good spelling is an essential skill which allows the children to communicate their understanding in all curriculum subjects. Spelling patterns and rules are taught specifically in class. At home children will be working on words from the spelling lists from the National Curriculum.

Year 4 - A grid with up to twenty five spellings will be sent home at the start of each term. The expectation is that the children will practise these words (little and often works best) at home during the term ready for a spelling test in the last week.

Year 3 - A list of five spellings will be sent home on a fortnightly basis. More information will be sent home with the first list.

Please support and encourage your child to learn their spellings. Practising their words little and often works best. We really do appreciate the additional support from home to learn these words as it will make such a big impact on your child's reading and writing. If you would like further help with ways to support your child with reading and/or spelling then contact the class teacher who will be able to advise you.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Your child will need their **full P.E kit** (clearly labelled with their name) in school **every day**. It is important they have the appropriate kit; **polo shirt or t-shirt, shorts, tracksuit or sweatshirt and jogging bottoms and trainers as well as their indoor daps**. We will be outside in all weathers, unless extreme, so it is important that children have their school uniform to change back into after what could be a wet session outside.

Children in year 3 start swimming at Westonbirt pool on Thursday 27th September. Children in year 4 will swim with their first session being Thursday 7th February. A separate letter nearer the time will give full details. Please ensure that the slip and money is returned as soon as possible.

FOREST SCHOOL

We are fortunate to have Forest School this year led by Mr Knight on Fridays for a six week block. You will receive a letter before the first session giving more information. Making sure that your child has the appropriate clothes for every session will enable them to participate fully, getting the most from their forest school learning.

PLAYTIME

Children need to have appropriate clothing for playtime including a waterproof coat with a hood as our aim is to be outside whenever possible. A healthy snack consisting of fruit or vegetables may be brought in and eaten during playtime.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Your child needs to have their **reading book** and **reading record** in school every day. Children also need a **water bottle** so they can have a drink on hand in class. Providing a suitable **apron** to wear during art activities will help to protect your child's school uniform. An old shirt, adult size, provides the perfect cover-up for messy activities.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Friday 16th November - Year 4 WOW Day - Children will learn about everyday life in Ancient Egypt. They are invited to come to school dressed as an Ancient Egyptian. For the day.

Wednesday 28th November - Year 4 Visit to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford - Details nearer the time.

July 2019 - Following the success of our visits over the past three years we are delighted to announce this year's Residential visit to The Wilderness Centre in the Forest of Dean for children in **Year 4**. More details later in the year.

A Final Note

We will work hard to make sure that your child has an enjoyable and successful year of learning and look forward to your continued support and encouragement. Please feel free to approach your child's teacher to discuss any aspect of your child's learning or well being. Our school especially welcomes help from parents and carers so if you are able to offer any help please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mrs Royle, Mrs Danton, Mrs Wheeler, Mr Hainsworth, Mr Walters and Mrs Wilson

P.S. - You can also find this letter, our topic overviews and homework activities on the school website.