



Federation Headteacher Miss J Concannon
<http://www.knaphillfederationofschools.org.uk/>

Thursday 6th September 2018

A warm welcome to the Autumn Term in Year 4

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope you have all had an enjoyable and restful summer holiday and that your child is settling back into the school routine. Mrs Evans (4E), Mrs Jordan (4J) and Mrs Barrett (4B) would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to Year 4. It is a very exciting year and there is so much for the children to look forward to.

This term we will be learning about Africa and we have planned many engaging learning opportunities around this theme. So that you are able to support your child in their learning, please see our topic outline accompanying this letter. We will, wherever possible, make cross-curricular links to make the learning more meaningful to the children. All teachers will be available on Thursday 13th September in the hall to answer any questions that you may have about the term ahead. This session will start at 3.30pm and end at 4:30pm.

Curriculum Books

We would be extremely grateful if you could supply sticky backed plastic to cover all of your child's books and ensure that it is done in order to protect your child's work. Please find your child's Maths, Maths Homework, Science, English, English Homework, Homework Diary, French and Guided Reading books which will need to be covered. Once the children have decorated the front covers of their new Topic Books, we will be sending them home to also be covered with sticky backed plastic.

Whole Class Guided Reading

Following a successful trial in the summer term, across the junior school, we will now be delivering regular whole class Guided Reading sessions. These will enable children of all attainment bands to be immersed in the same high quality literature and discussions. The weekly reading focus will be shared as part of English homework rather than in the children's homework diaries. Every child will read with either the Teacher or Teaching Assistant within a whole class, guided group or individually at least once a week.

Homework Diaries

In Year 4, we encourage children to be more self-reliant and self-sufficient, taking increasing responsibility for their own learning and progress. The children will be expected to use homework diaries to record their homework, spellings and reading. Parents and staff can also add comments to the reading section and message section for teacher/parent communication. We kindly ask that you check the children's homework diaries on a weekly basis and sign to indicate that you have looked at it. Your child should read for at least 10 minutes every night and record what they have read in their homework diary. Please remind your child that they need their homework diary in school every day.



Information about Homework

Homework will be set for English, Maths and Topic.

English: This will be handed out on a Monday and should be returned by Wednesday. Spelling lists will also be given. The children should glue these into their homework diaries. We expect children to practise their spellings at home regularly. If your child does not understand the meaning of a word, please encourage them to look it up in a dictionary and practise using the word in a sentence.

Maths: This will be handed out on a Wednesday, and should be returned by Friday. Every other week, Maths homework will be set on Mathletics, an online resource. All children have been given a log in and password. We would greatly appreciate your help in assisting your child learn their times tables - there are many ways to make learning these fun. e.g. songs, computer games, and flashcards for example.

Topic: In order to promote more responsibility for their own learning, the children will be given an exciting Africa project to complete over the course of the term. All details and instructions will be included when they receive their task sheet and the different activities will be explained clearly to them at school. A copy of these activities will also be uploaded onto the Year 4 page on the website for your reference.

PE Kits and Stationery

Your child will need their P.E kit in school on the following days:

- **4E:** Every Tuesday & Friday
- **4J:** Every Wednesday & Thursday
- **4B:** Every Wednesday & Friday

It would be extremely beneficial if these could be fully labelled so that any lost property can be quickly returned to its owner. This would also be useful in regards to stationery that the children bring to class in their pencil cases. We will continue to provide handwriting pens but kindly ask that children's pencil cases have the following items:

- Glue Stick
- Colouring Pencils
- HB Pencils
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Sharpener
- Calculator
- Dictionary
- Thesaurus

Reading

If you wish to share some Africa themed books with your child, below is a recommended book list for our topic:

Fiction

- Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling
- Fly, Eagle, Fly! by Christopher Gregorowski
- Journey to Jo'burg by Beverley Naidoo
- Boundless Grace by Mary Hoffman and Caroline Binch
- Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti by Gerald McDermott

Non-Fiction

- Africa by Yvonne Ayo
- Not for Parents Africa: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know (Lonely Planet Not for Parents) by Lonely Planet
- The Vanishing Rainforest by Richard Platt and Rupert van Wyk
- If the World were a Village by David J. Smith



In English, we will be reading the Butterfly Lion by Michael Morpurgo and it would be very helpful if you could please buy a copy of the book for your child to use in class.

Key Dates

During the course of the term, there are some important key dates which link to our new topic:

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| • Year 4 Flight to Africa | Monday 10 th September |
| • Parents' Evening | Tuesday 16 th October (3.30pm - 6pm) |
| • Parents' Evening | Thursday 18 th October (5pm - 8pm) |
| • Africa Dress Up Day | Tuesday 30 th October |
| • 4E Class Assembly | Friday 16 th November |
| • Year 4 Water Aid Charity Event | Thursday 22 nd November (2pm-3pm) |

Using feedback from parents, each class will have one class assembly this year. Please note that all class assembly dates for 2018- 2019 can be viewed on the school calendar on the school's website.

If you have any queries throughout the school year, the Year 4 Team will be at the school gates every Friday afternoon. You can also send messages to us via your child's homework diary or by personal letter. Should you have anything you wish to discuss which would require more time, then please don't hesitate to book an appointment through the office. This will ensure that a mutually convenient time can be arranged.

We are all very much looking forward to a full and fruitful term and we thank you in advance for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Evans
(Year Leader)

Mrs Jordan

Mrs Barrett

