

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope you all enjoyed the festive season and were able to have a relaxing time. The children have returned to school refreshed and full of lovely stories about the wonderful times they have spent with their families over the Christmas holiday.

It is great to be back with our Year 4 class getting excited about our new theme for the term 'Children of the World'. This topic has a geography focus, but there are many opportunities for creative, cross-curricular learning. We plan to have themed days based around, 'Our World of Food and Culture'. More details to follow. Mrs Dean will be sharing her passion for World Dance with some Latin-American and Bollywood routines. Very exciting!

We are really fortunate to have been given two additional learning sessions this term, that will be delivered by Babcock in school. The first is a woodwork session this Friday morning and the second is on 7th February based around Forces and Magnets. From previous experience these sessions will be fun and extremely engaging.

Our Year 4 residential to Beam House is fast approaching on 20th March. I will be sending some paperwork for you to complete before half term and then hold a brief meeting on Thursday 22nd February @ 3:15pm to discuss the trip and answer any questions you may have. A kit list will also be given then.

If you have family abroad, or a story to share about your childhood in another country, please let us know. You may find you have already been volunteered! We are so lucky to have links all over the globe and we really want to make the most of them in this topic. We will be asking children to complete a homework project about a country they have links to (if any). We hope you will be able to support your child to complete this with enthusiasm. We have learnt so much from one another during these tasks in previous years and the children really enjoy sharing their work.

We will be continuing with the homework routine established last term. The expectation is that children should spend a minimum of 30 minutes each evening doing some homework. This could be reading, practising handwriting, spellings and times tables/number bonds, on Mathletics, Maths Shed, Spelling Shed or working towards an extended piece of topic homework. Daily reading is essential. Please encourage reading aloud to develop confidence and fluency.

Every Thursday morning the children will now complete a maths 'Calculation Challenge'. This will have a range of multiplication, addition, subtraction and division questions. Their aim is simply to improve their score each week after weekly practise. It is essential for the children to be confident using all these methods as they move up the school. Support at home to learn these will be hugely appreciated.

Finally, just a reminder that our PE slots are on a Monday morning and Thursday afternoon. Please ensure that P.E kits are in school all week though, just in case of a change of plan. We would also ask that all uniform and kit are clearly named.

Best wishes for an exciting and productive 2024!

Miss Mann, Mrs Dean and Mrs Duboisson