

February 2009

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following another successful (and delicious!!) half term this year, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of what will be happening in Year 4 next half term.

Our new integrated learning theme will be 'Our Inner Space' which is primarily a Science based topic providing opportunities to learn about the human body in an in-depth and cross curricular way.

The core learning skill which all children in school will be following next half term is 'Knowing Me, Knowing You' (Developing a Sense of Self Worth and Understanding of Self and Others)

The 'I can' statements for Year 4 which support this unit and will be displayed on the class learning board are: **'I can manage making and changing friendships', 'I can explain why others may feel the way they do in a variety of contexts', 'I can show understanding and respect for other's feelings by the way I behave to them', 'I can use simple strategies to modify my mood positively with some help', 'I can use simple strategies to help me calm down when I'm in an argument/get in a temper'**. The children will be encouraged to assess their own learning for these statements within all curriculum areas throughout the half term.

We will continue with our daily Literacy and Numeracy sessions. In Literacy we will be focussing on 'Stories set in Imaginary Worlds' and 'Explanation Texts'. You can find details of the key objectives to be covered in these units at the following web address; www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/primaryframework/literacy/planning/year4.

The Numeracy strategy will continue to be followed and we will be learning about Handling Data in Block C2, Calculating, Measuring and Understanding Shape in Block D2 and Securing Number Facts, Relationships and Calculating in Block E2. It would be very beneficial if your child could continue to practise their times tables at home on a regular basis, as this would be of great help to them during Numeracy sessions in all blocks of work. Just a reminder that the website address for the Numeracy Strategy is:

www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/primaryframework/mathematics/planning/year4 which will take you directly to the objectives that we will be covering next half term if you want to know about this in more detail.

The class will participate in PE on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings next half term. One of these sessions will be taken outdoors, weather permitting, so please ensure your child has the appropriate kit in school; namely a pair of black shorts, white tee shirt for indoor PE and a dark coloured track suit and trainers for outdoors. Girls with long hair will need to have it tied back for the session and will also need to remove or cover any stud earrings.

Home learning will continue to be set where appropriate and the children will be given a full week to complete their Literacy and Numeracy tasks. They may also be given home learning tasks relevant to our current learning theme where they will be asked to research a particular aspect relating to work currently being undertaken in class. Please continue to support your child in these tasks and encourage them to hand their home learning in on time.

Please continue to encourage your child to read every night or as often as possible as it really does make a big difference to their reading development. Try to talk to them about their reading habits and the books they are choosing and encourage them to sustain their reading to the end of the book wherever possible. Remember that if you sign your child's reading diary each night to show that they have read, they will receive an extra merit that week.

Please could you also ensure that all of your child's belongings are clearly named before they are brought to school, as we have had instances where children have mislaid items of clothing this year purely because they haven't been named. As part of our 'Healthy Schools' initiative and in preparation for learning your child should have their own named water bottle in school on a daily basis. This ensures they remain hydrated throughout the day and certainly helps concentration levels during learning time.

Thank you for your continued support in your child's learning, if you have any questions or queries about any of the above or any other issue, please feel free to see me either before school starts or at the end of the day.

Thank you again,

Mrs D Jordan
Class Teacher

Mrs French
TA

Mrs Brittan
TA

Mrs Coolbear
HLTA

Mrs D Reynolds
Head Teacher