Welcome to Year 4 Sunshines

 September 2018

Welcome to children and parents of Year 4. I am Mrs. Bush and I am very excited to be teaching your children this year. This year Mrs Bell will be our teaching assistant and Mr Halstead will be teaching the class on Mondays as I am not in school on this day. We will be working very closely with Miss. Bimson, Miss Wynn and the Year 4 Rainbows as we have done in previous years . I am sure that we will all have another happy and successful year.

The following is some useful information about Year 4.

**P.E and Swimming**

P.E lessons take place throughout the year but the days of these lessons changes half termly. Sometimes we have P.E specialist coaches who come to teach e.g. football skills, so it is a good idea to have P.E. kits in school every day. It is best if the children keep their kits in school for the half term and then they can be taken home for washing in the holidays.

Please ensure that your child has the correct kit. All children should have pumps, a white T-shirt and blue shorts. As outdoor P.E. is part of the curriculum it would be a good idea for the children to have jogging pants/leggings and a sweatshirt (preferably blue or black) for the colder weather.

Swimming will take place every Wednesday. It is great to see the progress children make over the weeks that they attend. Please can you ensure the children wear the kit listed on the letter you received before the six week holiday:

* Swim hat
* No long shorts/boardies
* Full piece swmming suit- no bikinis

The swimming coaches are very strict about this and have stopped children taking part in the lessons when they haven’t had the correct kit on.

**Homework**

Homework will work similarly in Year 4 as it did in Year 3. Children will be given a homework menu where children will be expected to complete a number of tasks over the half term but at timings that suit you as a family. We appreciate weekends are precious and children may find it easier to approach their homework during the week or spread their homework out, rather than cramming into one weekend. It also allows time for quality homework to take place.

Please may I encourage you to continue to listen to your children read as regularly as you can, reading different texts/books or whatever may take their interest. If you are able to question your children about their reading too this will really help with their comprehension skills.

**Spellings**

Children will have a spelling list to learn each week. Children will have a weekly spelling tests, the focus will be on children achieving ‘personal best’ scores each week. The spelling lists will cover words from the Year 3 and 4list that is provided by the government. This is a list of spellings that the government have suggested children should be able to spell when leaving Year 4- you may have already have received some of the words in Year3, the idea of sending them again is consolidation and ensuring children are applying them in their writing. Spelling lists will also cover some grammar objectives, for example knowing the difference between ‘there’, ‘their’ and ‘there’, and will sometimes include spellings that link to the year 4 spelling rules.

**Reading Books**

All children will read in school each week at some point and so it is important that the children have their books in school **every day**. Children can read books from home if they wish to, but we may just check it is the correct level for them. Please keep reading books in a school reading book bag to keep clean and dry.

Children will also receive daily guiding reading sessions where they will look at different texts, poetry, non-fiction texts and we will annotate and discuss the different ways authors write.

**Uniform**

Please make sure **ALL** items of clothing, including P.E kits, are clearly labeled with your child’s name.

**Toys**

Children must **not** bring toys to school, including footballs.

(unless requested for use in lessons)

**Water Bottles**

Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school each day, filled up, with their names clearly labelled on them. They will bring them home each day, the same way they did in Year 3. Please may we ask children only have water in their bottles as they are not allowed anything else in class.

**Birthdays**

We love birthdays in Year 4! If you would like to bring in sweets for other children, please may I remind you we are not allowed to give out lollipops so little bags of sweets are best.

**Film Clips**

During some Topic and Literacy lessons we may show the children clips from films or television programs. I will make sure all the clips are appropriate but some the clips may be from films that are not rated ‘U’, please let school know if you would rather your children not watch the clips.

**Attendance and Lateness**

It is essential that children are in school on time. Many lessons begin at 9.00 a.m. and if your child is late then they miss important explanations.

**Hometime**

Children will go home through the classroom door, not the cloakroom,.

Please make school aware of who will be collecting your child at the end of the day, if this is different from normal. We may have to question who is picking up your child if we don’t recognise them or haven’t been made aware of a change in plan, please note we are only doing this to keep your children safe and ensure they are going home with the correct adult.

**Meet the teacher**

There will be a meet the teacher, Wednesday 12th September at 9:00am. You will be able to see your children’s classroom and meet the staff and ask any questions.

We hope that the children have a fantastic time in Year 4. There are many exciting things to look forward to - including lots of interesting topics such as The Romans, Brazil and The Titanic, and many special events, including class assemblies, Christmas activities, family learning workshops and much, much more!

If you have any concerns regarding school please do not hesitate to get in touch. Please pass on any messages to Mrs Bell in the morning or come to the office to make an appointment and I will speak to you as soon as I can . Our main aim is to ensure your children have a happy and exciting school year and we will do our absolute best to ensure this.

Thank you in advance for your continued support, here’s to a fantastic year!

Mrs. K Bush & Mrs. M. Bell