



January 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

We would like to welcome back all our pupils, and their families, after the Christmas break. We hope that you and your family had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday.

During this term, we shall continue to have high expectations of our pupils. It is important that they remain organised. Please ensure that your child has the correct equipment in school for all lessons and that the Planner and Reading Record is used to record daily reading at home. All classes are to have their planners signed for Monday morning registration. It would aid pupils if they could read aloud at least once a week working on fluency, expression and using punctuation to guide them.

Pen licences will continue to be awarded half termly when a pupil's handwriting reaches Year 4 expectations. Pupils are given their first pen but thereafter replacement pens should be provided from home. These should be black ink/gel pens, but not a biro. Please also ensure that all uniform and equipment is clearly labelled. So far there has been minimal lost property in the Year 4 area; let's try hard to maintain this.

Over the next half term in topic lessons, Year 4 will be studying mountains. In our six week study, we shall be locating the world's major mountain ranges, looking at dangers on the mountains and how climate differs in a mountain environment. Life in the mountains will be discussed and pupils will form arguments for and against living there. Hillary and Tenzing's mountain exploration and triumphs will be researched.

Following this, pupils will be studying the history and development of chocolate. Pupils will learn about the discovery of the cacao plant and how chocolate was developed from the bean. Pupils will create a timeline of the major developments in the history of chocolate. Surveys of taste preference will be carried out and data presentation methods will be completed. Pupils will investigate different packaging and plan in a group their own advertising campaign for a chocolate bar. The topic will culminate with our own chocolate production line producing a tasty Mothering Sunday treat.

In Science, pupils will be learning about the digestive system and states of matter.

In Design Technology, we will be completing a unit on battery-operated lights. This will include research on different types of lighting in the home, planning lighting for a modern home and consolidating their learning about electrical circuits. We aim for pupils to produce electrical lighting in small groups based on their own designs.

In art, pupils will study the artist Diego Rivera and will study his murals. Pupils will develop their pastel skills and will finish with a group mural in his style.

Forthcoming Events

Year 4 production '*Panto Pandemonium*': Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 February. Please help your child to learn any parts they have. The songs can be listened to on YouTube.

Parent Consultations: Tuesday 14 and Thursday 16 March

It has been a continued pleasure for staff to work with Year 4 and we all look forward to a positive and successful spring term.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Bruguier and Mrs Reid 4BC

Miss O' Brien 4FB

Miss O' Doherty 4KD