



April 2017

Dear parent/carer

We would like to welcome back all our pupils, and their families, after the Easter 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 their Planner and Reading Record is used to record daily reading at home. 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 this half term, Year 4 will be following a unit of work on a theme that focuses on 'Coasts'. In our six week study of coasts, we will be creating a beach chest display filled and decorated with items likely to be found on a visit to the coast. We will be using atlases to locate major seaside resorts in the UK and then will launch our own campaign to encourage more tourists to visit one of these locations.

Pupils will be learning about different rock formations found at the coast and will learn how soft/hard rock is affected by weathering, deposition and erosion. Pupils will find out about the devastating effects of coastal erosion there. We will be making a model of a coast and adding our own sea defence ideas and creating the many landforms created after erosion - stacks, arches, stumps and caves. Pupils will learn how these are formed.

In the second half of term our topic is the Romans. Pupils will learn about the expansion of the Empire and how and why it was so successful in battle. The legacy of the Roman Empire will be appreciated. The Roman hierarchy of power will be understood. In addition to learning about the Roman military prowess, pupils will learn about the many different leisure activities the Romans enjoyed. There will be an opportunity for pupils to participate in gladiatorial role plays. Pupils will design and make their own Roman mosaic and frescoes using watercolour paints. The topic will be brought to life with a Roman day in July.

Last term, a revised approach to teaching spelling skills was introduced in Year 3. Recent research suggests that best practice in the teaching of spelling should be a 'little and often' approach, with spelling taught and practised several times each week. This is a similar approach to that used in the teaching of phonic skills, is recommended by Herts for Learning (the school improvement service for Hertfordshire County Council) and has proved highly successful in other schools. Lesson teaching will focus on the spelling patterns and on the practice of spelling using a range of word games. Whilst we shall continue to give a test of spelling words, there will be only five or six example words to be practised. Each week there will be a dictation test to assess children's learning of these spelling words.

Forthcoming Events

- A reminder that the Year 4 pupils will be undertaking their residential visit to Norfolk 21 June to 23 June. There will be an information evening for parents about this trip on Monday 5 June, 6.30pm.
- We look forward to Sports Day on Thursday 15 June (Friday 16 June reserve day). Further details will follow.
- You will receive your child's annual report in July and it will be followed by an opportunity to discuss this with the class teacher.

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

Yours sincerely

Mrs Bruguier and Mrs Reid 4BC

Miss O' Brien 4FB

Miss O' Doherty 4KD