



January 2019

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. We shall be locating the world's major mountain ranges, learning about mountain features 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. Linked to history skills, pupils will learn about Hillary's mountain exploration of Everest.

Following this, pupils will be studying the history, development and features of the Aztec civilisation. Pupils will learn about the Ancient Aztec civilisation including making and designing Aztec headdresses, the history of chocolate, society and their art. In Science, pupils will be learning about the digestive system and sound. The children will have the opportunity to make their own musical instrument and mould their own set of teeth.

In Design Technology, we will be completing a unit on battery-operated lights. This will include identifying the different types of lighting in the school, planning lighting for a modern home, as well as creating a lava lamp. At the end of the unit, the children will be creating an individual light, which will be tested in school, using their knowledge about electrical circuits.

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

After the production of 'Pantastic', children will be undertaking a recorder course in their music lessons. All children are required to have their own recorder in school during this period.

Forthcoming Events

Parent Consultations: Tuesday 12 and Thursday 21 March

Year 4 production "*Pantastic*" Wednesday 27 March (afternoon) and Thursday 28 March (evening). Please help your child to learn any parts they have.

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. The term ends on Friday 5 April.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Griffiths 4FG

Mr Steenvorden 4FM

Miss Collins 4LC

Miss O' Doherty 4KD