Curriculum Letter
Autumn 2019

Year 4 Pine
Class Teacher: Mr McHale
Teaching Assistant: Mrs Reid

Dear Parents/Carers

We are very much looking forward to working with you to enable your child to achieve the best outcomes at school this term.

This is a letter to inform you of the topics that will be taught during the Autumn term. It provides information about the learning opportunities planned for your child and the skills, knowledge and concepts being developed.

Maths
Your child will continue to learn Maths through the Singapore approach which enables children to develop number sense and reasoning skills. We will continue to use this Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract approach to build a solid foundation for conceptual understanding. This term we will cover the following topics:
- Place value
- Addition and subtraction within 10000
- Multiplication and division

English

Writing
The strategy used to teach English is ‘Big Writing’ which enables us to teach the children to produce written work that is interesting, grammatically accurate and correctly spelt. The children write at length once a week. Their writing is inspired by texts of different genres which are, wherever possible, linked to their Project.

An important part of their writing is the speaking and listening activities linked to the text both in the classroom and at home. As part of their weekly preparation for their ‘Big Writing’ we will be sending home weekly ‘Big Talk’ homework. This is designed to give you an opportunity to
discuss your child’s writing with them and to participate in the imaginative process, of which talking is a key part.

The National Curriculum has a strong emphasis on spelling and grammar, and the children will be encouraged to focus on these elements of their writing, across all curriculum areas.

This term we will also be focusing closely on presentation and handwriting. In order for the children to achieve the expected standard for Year 4, it is a requirement that their handwriting is neat, legible and joined. The same high standard of presentation is also expected in homework.

Reading
In ‘Big Reading’ lessons the children are taught strategies to use in written comprehension. Children will be taught to analyse the structure and vocabulary of a wide range of texts and how to understand and explain the meaning of words in context. They will continue to justify inferences with evidence taken from a text and make predictions of what might happen, based on what they have read. This term we will be reading ‘The Tin Forest’ by Helen Ward and ‘The Vanishing Rainforest’ by Richard Platt and Rupert van Wyk.

In all classes we endeavour to encourage children to develop a love of reading. It is a requirement of the National Curriculum that children in Year 4 are able to read fluently, quickly and with accuracy. It is essential, if your child is to achieve the expected standard for Year 4, that children read on a regular basis at home, both to an adult and independently. It is also important that children use a dictionary to check the meaning of unfamiliar words.

Science
The Science topics for this term are Animals and Their Habitats. In this topic we grouping animals into different categories as well as looking at different food chains.

Religious Education
The R.E. topics for this term are Hinduism and Christianity, covering the history, values and customs.

Music
Year 4 will learn to play the ukulele throughout the year, taught by Miss Parker.

Project
The project for the first term is a geographical one, Rainforests and Conservation. We will be finding out about the importance of the rainforests, the impact they have both locally and globally, what deforestation is and how we as individuals can make a difference.

Physical Education
The children in Year 4 are extremely excited about P.E. as it is the only year where swimming is on the curriculum. Here the children will be taught efficient and safe swimming techniques and confidence in the water. Year 4 Elder will have swimming lessons for the first half of the academic year, and Year 4 Pine for the second half. Please ensure your child has appropriate swim wear along with a cap and towel.

Please also make sure your child comes in with a P.E. kit on Mondays and takes it home on Fridays. Your child will need navy blue shorts, a white t-shirt and trainers. From October to May, when the weather is colder a sweatshirt and tracksuit bottoms are also needed.
**Homework**
The homework set for your child is designed to support their learning in class. The school's homework policy states that your child should receive regular homework. Homework is set on Thursday to be returned the following Tuesday.

Regular homework is as follows:
Reading: read for at least 15 minutes every day.
Spelling: spelling words and spelling 'red words' are given out on a regular basis. The spelling table will identify the date by which the spellings need to be learnt. The spelling sheets are not to be returned.
Big Talk: Big Talk homework comes home on a Thursday and **must be returned the next day**.
Literacy and Maths: Will be sent out on Friday and returned by Tuesday.
*(Please remember to use our online learning resources i.e. Mathletics and Education City for which your child has user names and passwords.)*
There may be other additional pieces of homework from time to time.
Discussion about homework is equally useful in your home language if this is not English.

**Class Trips**
The children will be visiting Kew Gardens this term to participate in a rainforest workshop as well as explore the surrounding areas within the gardens. Parents are welcome to help on trips – places are limited so please let me know if you are available.

**Notices**
You will find up-to-date information on events in the school office, and also on the school website. The newsletter is sent out by email every Friday afternoon (or a paper copy is sent to those without email). Other general letters are sent by email. Letters with a parental permission slip will be sent on paper via the children's book bags.

Parents are warmly welcomed to our sharing assembly each Friday afternoon at 2.45 p.m.

**Finally**
The support of the family is immensely important where pupil progress is concerned. Here are some of the ways you can help your child make good progress at school:

- Ensure your child gets enough sleep.
- Ensure reading happens for a short period every day (15mins). Be a reader yourself. Encourage your child to read quietly; read to your child; have your child read to you or a sibling; talk with enthusiasm to your children about what they are reading; visit and join the local library.
- Ensure homework is done and returned on time. Encourage your child to relish the challenge of work that is difficult.
- Talk to your child about their learning. Ask them about the **learning dispositions** they use at school and encourage them to use them. Our West Twyford learning dispositions are: **curiosity, bravery, independence, co-operation, creativity, resilience, discipline and making links**.
- Praise your child for the effort they put into their learning.

I hope I have given you an insight into life in our classroom and answered any other queries you may have had. I look forward to teaching your children this term, and am confident that we will have an exciting and successful time together.
Please feel welcome to make an appointment with me, Ms Collum, the Deputy Headteacher, or Miss Martin, the Headteacher, if there is anything you need to discuss further.

We are all looking forward to an exciting and challenging term ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Matthew McHale  
Class Teacher

Miss Martin  
Headteacher