



## Year Four Class Newsletter – Autumn Term



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have all enjoyed a lovely summer holiday and are ready for the return of the school routine! We are looking forward to getting to know the children better as the term progresses and hope they are excited about the new challenges of Year Four.

During the Autumn term we will be focusing on our history topic - **Marvellous Mayans!** Topic work will include exploring where and when the remains of the Mayan civilisation were discovered, investigating Mayan society, religion and beliefs, experiencing everyday life and creating Mayan-style art, and looking into the decline of the Mayan civilisation.

Our science topic this term is **Living Environments**, where we will be investigating different habitats of plants and animals found in this country and learning about food chains and webs. This topic will combine lessons in the classroom and activities in our outdoor school environment.

**Reading** remains a vital focus and we ask that every child still reads at home **at least** three times per week. We appreciate that some children are now free readers - which is brilliant – however, we ask if you could still encourage your child to record their home reading in their Reading Records so we are able to keep track of their progress. The children are able to change their books as often as they wish, as long as the records have been filled in and signed by an adult. Children who read three times or more collect stickers on a special Reading Passport and those who reach a new destination receive a reward! The percentage of children who read three or more times per week is monitored on a weekly basis and recorded in our Friday celebration assembly. We would LOVE to win the incredibly exciting reading box for having the highest weekly percentage of readers in the school so please help our children to achieve this! All our **Guided Reading** sessions this term will focus on Roald Dahl books – there will be Golden Tickets hidden in the book corner and (perhaps) some sweet treats as rewards for excellent work!

As well as reading the children will bring **weekly spelling lists** home to learn. They will be given out on a Monday in preparation for a test on the following Monday. The spellings will consist of two lists: Key words – ten words that are commonly

misspelt; these will change every half term, and two of these words will be selected at random each week for the spelling test. The other spelling list will include statutory Year Four spellings from the national curriculum. These are words that children in Year Four are expected to be able to spell and will change weekly. The spelling tests will be a combination of words from each list. The children will be given some opportunities to learn these in school, however it is essential that they also take time to practise them at home too. We will also be introducing **weekly tables tests** later this term, reviewing those they know and supporting them to learn new ones by heart. Tables tests will take place on a Friday.

The class will also be given **homework** on a fortnightly basis. This will normally alternate between Maths and English activities, although it may also be linked to other areas of the curriculum. They will be given a week to complete it and can always come to us if they need more support or additional explanation as long as it is not left until the day that the work is due in.

Please be aware that the children will be having **PE** on **Tuesday** and **Friday**. They will need to have their PE kit in school on that day (house colour t-shirt, shorts, hoodie and trainers). We are happy for them to wear leggings or tracksuit bottoms in either black or navy if the weather looks chilly. A pair of spare socks is useful after an afternoon running around on a soggy field, too!

Do be aware that unless specifically recommended by our SENCO, fiddle toys are not to be brought into school. Thank you for your support with this.

Finally, if you have anything that you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to speak to either of us at the end of the school day. If the matter is more urgent, then please call Mrs Williams on 01453 823265 and she will pass on your message to us in class. We look forward to getting to know you and your children during this school year.

Kind regards,

Mrs Donna Christie and Mrs Alison Hill  
Year 4 Teaching Team