



Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the spring term. The children are already immersed in their learning and we are looking forward to a busy and exciting term.

### **Curriculum**

This term in English, we will be continuing to be inspired in our writing by 'The Borrowers' before starting to look at diary writing based on the story 'Into the Forest' by Anthony Browne and poetry by John Lyons. In Maths, we will be looking at written methods for multiplication and division, measurement and fractions.

Spring 1	Spring 2
<b>Science</b> – States of matter	
<b>Geography</b> – The water cycle, rivers and Minstead locational study	
<b>Computing</b> – Coding	<b>Computing</b> – Making music
<b>Art</b> – Landscapes	<b>DT</b> – Mechanisms
<b>PSHE</b> – Keeping safe	<b>PSHE</b> – Rights and responsibilities
<b>RE</b> – Identity	<b>RE</b> – Symbol - Eucharist
<b>PE</b> – Dance	<b>PE</b> – Gymnastics

### **Homework**

Homework will continue to be handed out on a Friday and is due back in by the following Friday. We have been really impressed by the amount of effort children have been putting in to ensure their homework is completed. Thank you for your support and encouragement with this! Alongside their main piece of homework, we will alternate between a times tables and a spelling task each week. The spelling words are those that the children are needing to know how to spell by the end of the year.

As well as the paper homework and as discussed at parents evenings, it is vital that the children are continuing to regularly practice their times tables ahead of the national test in June. We have been really pleased with the progress that all children have been making with times tables since September and this is having a great impact in their maths lessons. We will be beginning to expose the children to the format of the test starting this term in order to prepare them for what to expect. Please do encourage children to make use of Times Tables Rock Stars and Monster Multiplication on Purple Mash as well as regularly questioning them yourselves.



### Reading

The children will continue to be heard read at school however we would also like to see more children reading more regularly at home. The children are encouraged to record in their journals when they have read, either to an adult or independently, ideally 4 times a week. We will be reviewing the colour banded books that children are reading and your child will either be reading a book from the class library or a book of their choice. Reading journals should be made available in school every day.

All children will continue to visit the library each week (Hedgehog on a Monday and Badger on a Tuesday). Please encourage your child to have their library book in school on these days otherwise they will not be able to take a new book out and may be issued with an overdue notice.

### PE/Uniform/Outdoor Time

For this term, PE will be on **Thursday and Friday**. This will be a mix of indoor and outdoor activities. They will continue to wear PE kit on these days. We have been pleased with how smart the children are looking on PE days due to most of them wearing the correct kit. Thank you for your support in this.

Please ensure that children's hair is tied back and that earrings are removed on these days, as per our uniform policy. We have seen an increasing number of children wearing jewelry in general and would like to remind you that the only jewelry permitted is a single pair of stud earrings. All other jewelry needs to be left safely at home. Earrings that cannot be removed must be taped, either at home or by sending your child to school with their own tape.

The children are spending an increasing amount of time outdoors in all weathers. At the moment, it is bringing with it the challenges of lots of mud and children not having spare shoes to change into. To ensure that less learning time is lost to children trying to clean/dry shoes and clothing, please can we request that children have a **spare** pair of shoes to wear outdoors as well as a change of socks for when feet inevitably get wet, in school at all times. These can be placed in a carrier bag on your child's peg. Ideally, as mentioned in previous newsletters, a pair of wellies to remain in school would also be useful. Thank you to those parents who have already provided this.



### **Minstead**

One of the main highlights of this term will of course be the residential trip to Minstead. We have been delighted with the number of children that will be coming with us in March.

Your child will have been sent home today with a pack containing important forms that must be returned by **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January**. Further details about the itinerary for the trip, as well as for those 'staycationers', will be sent at a later date.

Full payment for the Minstead trip is due via bank transfer by **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February**.

As always, thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or queries then please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher, either at the door or via the Year 4 email: [year4@pdp.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:year4@pdp.w-berks.sch.uk)

Kind regards,

Miss Hall, Mrs Ritchie and Mrs Butler  
Year 4 Teachers