



Herons Way, Thatcham,
Berkshire RG19 3SR
Tel: 01635 866700
Email: office@pdp.w-berks.sch.uk
Web: www.pdp.w-berks.sch.uk
Monday 15th January 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you have had a lovely Christmas break. The children have returned to school and settled in really well into the Spring term.

This term in Maths, we are learning to multiply and divide using the formal written methods before moving onto area, fractions and decimals. In English children have started to explore the poetry of John Lyons. They will also develop their explanation skills when explaining the process of chocolate making and after half term will focus on narrative writing using *The Borrowers* for stimulus. In Geography we are learning about the water cycle and rivers in preparation for our residential visit to Minstead after half term. We also have more exciting learning opportunities planned for the children in French, Music, Art/DT, PSHE, PE and Computing.

The children will continue to have PE on **Mondays and Thursdays**. The lessons will be a mix of indoor and outdoor PE. Year 4's will be allowed to come into school wearing their PE kit on Mondays and Thursdays. The children will need to wear a plain white t-shirt, dark coloured jogging bottoms, a school jumper and trainers. A separate hoodie/sweatshirt can be brought in a bag for the PE lesson. For the warmer months they can wear dark coloured shorts. They can remain in their PE kits for the remainder of the day.

Homework will be set on a Friday and due in on a Wednesday. Reading Records will be collected and checked on Wednesday. Listening to your child read at home is a fantastic way to support them in their development and we would like their records to be signed at least four times a week please. Children will be rewarded with merits and gems for achieving this. Spellings will be sent home on a Friday, to be checked the following Wednesday. The children will also have plenty of time to practise at school throughout the week. At the end of Year 4, the children will sit a Multiplication Check which is a national test. The expectation is that they know all their times tables up to 12x12. We will be doing lots of multiplication work at school, but any extra practise at home will make a huge difference. Some useful online games can be found at <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables>.

Further information about the Year 4 residential trip to Minstead on February 26th to 28th 2024 will follow in due course.

We look forward to another year together and please ask any questions either personally or via the Year 4 email.

Mrs Latham and Miss Palmer