



St John's Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Nicky Hughes

11th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 4!

We have really enjoyed getting to know the class over the last few days, and they have made an impressive start to the new school year. The children have been exploring "Purple Learning" and how to be successful learners and they are already embracing new challenges with enthusiasm and determination – it has been lovely to see!

This term our topic is "Making a Splash!" We have lots of exciting learning planned – please see the attached topic grid for more information. As part of this topic, we have arranged a visit to the River and Rowing Museum in Henley. The trip will take place on Thursday 21st September and a letter with further information will be sent out later this week, so please keep an eye out for this.

Forest School

Year 4 will have Forest School on Monday afternoons, led by our Forest School Leader, Melanie Gravett, assisted by Julie Carr. Please make sure your child has his or her Forest School kit in school each Monday: long-sleeved top and fleece, long trousers and wellington boots, together with waterproof coat and waterproof trousers if you have them. (If not, we have some in school which can be borrowed.)

P.E:

On Tuesday afternoons, the class will have a PE lesson led by a specialist sports coach, Judith Ross. This term, Judith will be teaching the class rugby skills. These lessons will take place outside and as the weather is already turning colder, the children can wear tracksuit trousers. Sports trainers (not "Converse" type shoes) must also be worn. On Friday mornings, the class will have a PE lesson with Mrs Hannaford. This term, the focus will be dance, so the children will need blue or black shorts as well as a plain white t-shirt for this PE lesson. Earrings should not be worn in PE lessons, or should be covered by a small plaster.

Music Technology

The class are very lucky to be having a weekly lesson in Music Technology, led by a specialist teacher from the Oxfordshire County Music Service. These lessons will take place on Tuesday afternoons, at no cost to parents. The children will have the opportunity to create music using technology such as iPads – we are sure that they will love it!

Class DoJo:

Linked to our focus on "Purple Learning", we will be using a website called 'Class Dojo' which enables staff to award points to children. They can earn points for hard work, good attitudes towards learning, helping others etc. You should have already received a code in order to register on the website and join the class. If you have any problems joining, please let us know – Mrs Hannaford can give you the code again if needed. As well as rewarding excellent learning behaviour, we will also use Class Dojo to share information, photos, reminders etc., so it would be great to have everyone on it if possible. When your child is awarded points, you will be alerted so you can praise them when they get home from school. There is a message option on Class Dojo with which you can send us messages, however, as a school we have decided not to use this. We ask you to continue to contact the office if you need to speak to us, or pop in and see one of us before or after school. Thank you.



Homework

Homework in Year 4 will take a variety of forms. More information will be given to you shortly in a separate letter, but it will include regular reading at home, learning spellings, and a variety of Maths activities including MyMaths (an online Maths programme), learning times tables and completing "Speed Maths" activities. If your child finds it difficult to complete homework at home, there will be a weekly Homework Club on a Tuesday lunchtime, led by Mrs Burgess, where support and resources will be available to help.

Parent Helpers

We would welcome offers of parent help, particularly on Friday afternoons, when Art lessons will take place, or Wednesday afternoons, when parents could help with hearing children read. If you are able to give up any time, we would be very grateful. It doesn't have to be every week! Please speak to one of us or email the school office if you are able to help. Thank you.

Parent Drop-In Session

There will be an opportunity to meet us both and ask any questions about life in Year 4 this Thursday afternoon, 14th September, from 3:00pm to 4:00pm in the Year 4 classroom. We hope to see some of you then.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 14 th September	Parent Drop In – 3pm-4pm
Thursday 21 st September	Visit to River and Rowing Museum, Henley
Saturday 30 th September	Autumn Fair
Friday 13 th October	Harvest Festival at 9:30am
Monday 16 th October	Art Week – parent volunteers very welcome!
Thursday 19 th October	Open Afternoon 2:00pm – 3:30pm
Friday 20 th October	Break up for half-term – 3:00pm

We are looking forward to a busy but exciting term! If you have any questions about your child's learning at any time, please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can pop in to school at drop off or collection to arrange a convenient time to meet, or contact us via an email to the school office. (office.2567@st-johns.oxon.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hannaford and Mrs Burgess