



St John's Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Nicky Hughes

10th September 2018

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 "Super Structures", with a specific focus on Japan. We have lots of exciting learning planned – please see the attached topic grid for more information. If you have any interesting items to show or have a connection with Japan that you would like to share, then please do let us know.

Forest School

Year 4 will have Forest School on Wednesday mornings, led by our Forest School Leader, Julie Carr. It would be very helpful if children could come in wearing their Forest School kit on a Wednesday morning to save us some time. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately: long-sleeved top and fleece, long trousers and wellington boots, together with waterproof coat and waterproof trousers if you have them.

P.E.

P.E. sessions will take place on a Monday and a Wednesday afternoon. This term, Mondays will be Gymnastics and Wednesdays will be Tag Rugby. It would be very helpful if the children could have the appropriate kit in school at all times. Bringing P.E. Kit in on a Monday and taking it home on a Friday each week will ensure they have it when needed. The correct kit should consist of the following items; a plain white t-shirt, a pair of blue or black shorts, a pair of blue, grey or black joggers, a blue, black or grey sweatshirt, and a pair of sports trainers (not Converse type shoes please). Earrings should not be worn in PE lessons, or should be covered by a small plaster.

Music

The class are very lucky to be having a weekly drumming lesson, led by a teacher from "World Beats." These lessons will take place on Monday afternoons, starting on Monday 17th September. The children are really looking forward to it – and hopefully we will be treated to an energetic performance at a later date!

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. (For safeguarding reasons, please do not share any photos from Class DoJo onto other social media platforms or with friends or family etc.) 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, starting with a focus on reading for pleasure. Over the next few months we will be adding to this so homework includes weekly spellings, times table practice and maths fluency work.

Parent Helpers

We would welcome offers of parent help, particularly in the afternoons when we might be taking part in Art and DT activities or have the flexibility for children to do 1:1 reading. 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.

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) There is also a "Parent Drop-In" session on Thursday afternoon this week (13th September) from 3:15pm – 4:00pm which is an opportunity to pop in to the classroom and find out more about Year 4, if you would like. We hope to see some of you then.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hannaford and Mrs Burgess