



Dear Parents and Carers,

Venus Autumn Term Learning Letter

Hello and welcome to Venus class! The children have made a fantastic start to Year 4 and I am looking forward to seeing what we can achieve together this term. The adults in Venus class this year are: Miss Swift, Mrs Pretlove and Miss Forrester. Miss Swift will be teaching on a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and Mrs Pretlove will be teaching on a Tuesday.

This term's Geography topic is 'Raging Rivers'. We'll be studying rivers around the UK and in the wider world. In Science, we will be studying 'States of Matter' including how the water cycle functions. We hope to carry out lots of experiments to explore this! In Art, we will be studying 'plant art' which includes drawing, painting and examining works of art by a range of artists.

English and Maths lessons have been planned to support learning across the Year 4 curriculum whilst revisiting Year 3 content. In Maths we will be focusing on Place Value as well as Addition and Subtraction to begin with. Children will also be practicing their multiplication tables and division facts regularly to support their learning.

In English we have begun looking at 'The Whale' by Ethan and Vita Murrow. This is a beautiful wordless picture book which the children have already enjoyed looking through to inspire their writing. We will write a setting narrative and newspaper report based around the book and I am looking forward to reading the children's fantastic work, I am already impressed by their efforts!

All the children take part in whole class reading lessons every day, which includes but is not limited to our class reading text - 'The Water Horse' by Dick King Smith. The children have new home reading records. Please try to read with your child every night and record it in his/her home reading record. We ask that children read at least four times per week. This can be reading to themselves, and they are welcome to do the recording in their records, but we still ask that some of these reads are to an adult. If they haven't read four times they will be asked to catch up in school. Where possible this will be in class time, but may have to roll into lunchtime if time is tight. If your child is choosing their own books and isn't enjoying their current book, please encourage them to change it- we have an extensive class library and children have opportunities throughout the day to use this. Regular reading is rewarded- every 5

reads, they will earn 5 Dojo points and every 25 reads will earn them a certificate!

Additional homework will be sent home on a Wednesday and will mostly consist of spelling and times tables. Homework will be collected in on a Monday so please remind your children to bring in his/her folder. Times tables are tested daily in our Fluency Maths Sessions. Any spellings for the week will be tested on a Friday.

As you may know, as of 2020, the Government introduced a multiplication tables check for Key Stage 2. This is intended for us as a school to identify children who have not yet mastered this important mathematical skill so we can give them additional support. This will incorporate times tables up to 12×12 . The children will take this check at the end of Year 4, therefore we would appreciate your support with practising their times tables at home. This can be through the homework folder, online or orally. As the year goes on, I will pop some links onto Dojo to support their practice.

PE takes place on a Monday and Thursday. Please have PE kits in school every day. As it becomes colder you may wish to provide your child with a named tracksuit/sweatshirt. A plastic bag for dirty or wet clothes that require washing would also be very useful, as we will try to brave most weathers! Please label all items of uniform and PE kit, including daps/trainers. If you would like your child's uniform to be protected during Art and Design Technology activities, please send an old shirt or top into school for this purpose. Thank you.

It has been wonderful to see the children make such a brilliant start to Year 4 and to have so many smiles in the classroom, I am really looking forward to seeing what we can achieve together. If you have any queries please feel free to contact me on Class Dojo or make an appointment in the office.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Swift