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Thursday 7th September 2017

Year 4 Curriculum Meeting, Tuesday 13th September, 2:30pm

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to give you some information about the forthcoming year and to inform you that I will be holding a short curriculum meeting for parents on **Tuesday 12th September at 2:30pm**. This will be an opportunity for you to find out more about the curriculum areas we will be covering, general routines and to ask any questions. I am enclosing an overview of the year 4 curriculum and some ideas for keeping a reading response journal.

Staffing: Mr Cameron is the lead teacher for Year 4 and is in school from Monday to Thursday every week. The teaching assistant team working with Year 4 this year includes Libby Jones, Sarah Fletcher and Ayesha Salman. Mrs Green, a PE specialist from Cherwell School, will continue to take PE lessons on Tuesday afternoons. Mrs Garrod will be taking Year 4's RE lesson on Tuesday afternoons. On Fridays the class will be taken by Mrs Hawkins in the morning with Sarah Fletcher taking the art lesson in the afternoon. Sarah Fletcher and Jack Griffiths (our Sports TA) will be taking the class swimming on Friday mornings.

General routines: Children may arrive at school at **8.45am** and are invited to practise handwriting, engage in directed activities from the teacher or read before registration. I will let them in through the classroom door that opens onto the playground. If you would find it helpful to drop your child off at school before this time, we do have a before school club, which runs from 8.00 - 8.45am. The cost for each session is £2. Registration for school is at **8.55am** prompt. Children will be released from the classroom at **3pm** but should always wait by the classroom if they are being collected. If children are going straight to a club or similar activity after school, they must make sure they have told the staff on duty where they are going. Children are instructed to return to the classroom if they cannot find the person who is collecting them. Please let the school know if you are going to be late.

PE: Our PE lessons are on Monday and Tuesday. Children will need shorts and a change of t-shirt (or tracksuit bottoms in colder weather). As part of PE, we aim to teach good hygiene and we therefore ask that children change out of the clothes that they are wearing to school. Similarly, your child will require appropriate footwear, such as trainers or plimsolls. We cannot allow children to wear sandals or backless shoes for PE. Children must tie their hair back and remove any jewellery.

Swimming: Swimming lessons are on Friday mornings at the Marston Ferry Pool and cost £2.50 per session. Children will need a pair of trunks (boys) or one piece costume (girls), a swimming hat and a towel. **Swimming starts on Friday 15th September**, so please remember to bring in kit and £2.50. Please speak to the school office if you do not have a swimming hat for your child (they cost £2). All Year 4 children are expected to go swimming if they are in school. There is a separate letter coming out which gives more detailed information about swimming lessons.

Year 4 Curriculum: An outline of the Year 4 plans is given on the separate Curriculum map. This includes topic headings and key questions for RE. Sometimes I may decide to rearrange the order of units of study.

Reading: Children are encouraged to take reading books home from the school library every week and there is a weekly visit to the library to enable this. We also have many books in the classroom, including poetry books. By Year 4, I would expect children to take responsibility for choosing books themselves, although some children will still need support with this.

As part of the English curriculum Year 4 pupils are expected to keep a reading journal in order to record their responses to things they have read and to develop their writing skills; I also ask the class to keep a list of books they have read this year. It is intended that entries are made both at home and within school, so I will happily supply children with another journal for use at home. Entries to the journal are intended to be enjoyable and it is not necessary for a child to make an entry for every book. It is perfectly acceptable to scribe ideas for your child.

Homework: Children will be given two pieces of homework on Mondays, which will be due the following Thursday. There will be an English or topic-related task in the homework book and a Maths task set using the new Abacus Online Maths Homework system. In addition I will be sending home spellings to be learned or times tables for practise; I will aim to send these out in alternate weeks. I hope that all children will be reading regularly during the week.

Trips: Year 4 are booked to visit the Hindu Temple in Neasden, West London in the second half of this term as part of our RE and Humanities studies (dates and details will come in a separate letter). We will also be attending the Christingle service at Christchurch Cathedral on the afternoon of **Friday 8th December**. More trips are being planned and details of all trips will be sent by separate letter.

How you can help: I hugely appreciate any help in the classroom! In the past, some parents have supported me on a set day and/or subject; others prefer to help when they have the time. If you are able to help or would be interested in sharing your skills and experiences with the children, please do let me know. The children really do enjoy working with, and learning from, visitors to the classroom.

I look forward to meeting you at the curriculum meeting. If you are unable to attend but would like to discuss your child's progress, please do feel free to drop in after school.

Yours sincerely,

Dani Cameron
Year 4 Teacher