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April 2022

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the final term of Year 4. This letter provides some useful information for Year 4 along with the attached timetable and curriculum map for the Summer term. This term, our topic is India.

In June, the class will be taking the national Times Tables Check, which is a 25 question online test on times tables knowledge. While we won't be talking to the children about this test a lot, knowing their times tables is a really crucial element in moving forward with their maths. Times Tables Rockstars offers a similar format to the test and makes ideal practice. I will be encouraging the children to go on the site each week as part of their homework for this reason.

As we transition back to "normal" with Covid-19 restrictions easing, just a reminder that:

Drop-off/Pick-up & Registers

The children arrive via the pedestrian gate, which opens onto the main playground. Mrs Donaghey will be at the pedestrian gate in the mornings and staff will walk the children to the public playground gate to release them at the end of the school day.

School opens at 8:45am and the pedestrian gate will be locked at 8.55am. School finishes at 3pm.

Communication

We welcome you to contact us with any queries or concerns through email. We may not be able to answer immediately, but will get back to you. For anything urgent or for something that needs to be shared immediately, you can either call the office, speak to Mrs Donaghey on the gate, who will pass on the message or send your child in with a note. You can also make an appointment with us at a mutually convenient time, by calling or emailing the office.

School office email: office.3832@st-barnabas.oxon.sch.uk

School office number: 01865 557178

Mr Cameron's email: dcam7637@st-barnabas.oxon.sch.uk

Absence

- Please let the office know in advance if your child has a medical or similar appointment and will need to be taken out of school or to arrive late.
- If your child is ill, please ring or email the office as soon as possible on each day of absence.

Equipment and clothing

- Children will have their own school equipment in a labelled pencil case provided by school. (Please do not send in pencil cases from home)
- PE lessons are on Mondays and Thursdays but children should come to school in clothes that are suitable for PE every day. We will not have PE kits in school. Children should have long hair tied back and not be wearing jewellery.

Suntan lotion

With the warmer weather arriving, suntan lotion is advisable. Please apply suntan lotion before your child comes to school on hot days. Children should not share lotion so if you want them to reapply, please make sure they have their own bottle in school. Lotion can be reapplied at lunchtime if necessary. Hats are also advisable as the field is very exposed during the summer months.

Reading

Reading is a wonderful life skill and we want children to love reading. The more the children read, the more words they are exposed to and these words gradually and inevitably make their way into the children's vocabulary. This assists with all areas of the children's learning, helps their confidence in speaking aloud and especially helps with ideas for their writing.

We will continue to have a big focus on reading throughout the school this term. We would love the children to recommend good books that they have read, to help inspire others. Current research confirms that the most effective form of homework is reading. Children who read regularly at home will have greater success in other subjects at school. In Year 4, we do expect the children to read every day alongside reading our class book. The children will continue to visit the school library each Thursday to choose a book which may be taken home and returned when finished. Please encourage your child to read at home daily.

Other Homework

Homework will mainly be set online but can be printed for any children who cannot easily access online learning on any particular week. Learning homework will include spellings, maths, grammar and so on. We will continue to use Big Maths (Powerpoints and work are set online most days in class and can be accessed through your child's Google Classroom account). Homework will be set on a Tuesday via Google Classroom and should be completed by the following Tuesday.

Symptoms

The school continues to be vigilant about Covid-19. Please do not send your child to school if they have symptoms of the virus: a high temperature or a cough or a loss of taste or smell. If anyone in school shows any of these symptoms they will need to go home immediately.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Dani Cameron, Emma Partington, Sarah Fletcher and Eniko Canea