

Westfields

JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Friday 10th January 2020

Dear Parents,

Happy 2020! We hope you have all had an enjoyable and festive Christmas break and are feeling refreshed for the new term. We have lots of exciting opportunities planned for the weeks ahead. This letter will give you an overview of what the children will be learning and also share some useful information and reminders.

Our new topic this term is 'Water, Water Everywhere'. This will be a fantastic and exciting topic which will teach the children about the water cycle and how rivers are formed. As well as this, we will be using this cross-curricular topic to explore water in other subjects such as art, writing and reading.

Home Learning

Thank you for all the support you have given your child so far this year. Home Learning is essential to securing knowledge and understanding which takes place in school. Tasks will continue to be set on a Thursday and collected on a Tuesday. Maths tasks will continue to be set via MyMaths but please remember that we are happy to provide paper copies of the MyMaths tasks to children upon request if internet access at home is not possible. A paper copy of the English home learning will be provided to every child, but can also be found on our website under the year group page. We kindly request that children's home learning is completed in handwriting pencil/pen rather than felt-tip pens or coloured pencils as the work is stuck into the children books each week. If your child is finding tasks difficult after you have tried to support them, please get your child to come in and speak to their class teacher as soon as possible who will be happy to help them; we ask they do this before the task is due to be handed in!

Spellings

As an essential skill, spelling is a key priority for the children's learning. We have been really impressed to see how the majority of children have improved their spelling scores under our spelling scheme but there is still room for some improvement! Spellings will continue to be set on a Tuesday and tested weekly on a Monday. Please encourage and support your child in practising them several times throughout the week using their booklets to really secure their learning of these. There is no substitution for you helping your child with their spellings a few times a week!

Reading

Reading continues to be one of our top priorities at Westfields Junior School. Being able to read confidently and fluently will help your child in every aspect of their life and education as they grow up. Of course, we will continue to work with your child at school but this must be supported by you at home as well. We ask that children read at least five times a week and that it is recorded in their reading record with a signature from yourself ideally with a suitable evaluative/descriptive comment from your child which demonstrates they have read. This term we have been assessing the children's reading ability under the benchmarking scheme and many children have now improved their reading stage which is fantastic! For those children who are reading the coloured stage books, it is essential that you take particular care over their reading as we would expect them to have progressed through these books by the end of Year 4. It is also essential that they read their stage book as these provide just enough challenge to promote progress in reading. The more they read, the more progress they will make: the less they read, the less progress we see in a child's reading! If you need any advice, just get in touch or look at the resources for parents on the school website (Parents tab/Parent Guides & Workshops).

Times Tables Rock Stars

As of the Autumn Term, children have been given a login to use Times Table Rockstars. This is a fantastic app which is designed to help children learn their times tables in an exciting and engaging way. As a minimum expectation in Year 4, we encourage the children to use TT Rockstars at least 10 minutes a night. This will help them to be fluent with their times tables and division facts. In order for a child to be 'Meeting' in Maths at the end of Year 4 they should be able to rapidly recall all of their times tables facts up to 12 x 12. This will be tested by the new government Multiplication Timetables Check later in the year. The more they practise, the more confident they will be going into this check.

PE kits

Whilst there are timetabled sessions for PE each week, it is vital children have their PE kits in school **every day**, in case alternative arrangements need to be made. It would help greatly if you could also ensure every item is clearly named to avoid lost items.

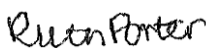
Finally, we are always keen to welcome parents or grandparents into school to help. If you are able to support in any way then please do get in touch to let us know your availability.

We are looking forward to a brilliant Spring Term.

Kind regards,



Mr Medwell
Year 4 Team Leader
& Assistant Headteacher



Miss Porter
Class Teacher



Mr Ratcliffe
Class Teacher

Parental Engagement
Quality Standard

