

Westfields

JUNIOR SCHOOL

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UNITE - INSPIRE - EXCEL

Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Happy 2021! We hope you have all had an enjoyable and festive Christmas break (albeit somewhat quieter!) and are feeling refreshed for the new term. We have lots of exciting opportunities planned for the weeks ahead despite the last minute changes; we hope that 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 'Italy' and 'The Romans'. These will be fantastic and exciting topics which we are sure will enhance our children's geographical and historical skills. As well as this, we will be using this cross-curricular topic to explore areas in subjects such as art, writing and reading.

Thank you for all the support you have given your child so far this year. The changes to school provision came suddenly and with little warning. You and your child have adapted quickly to changing circumstances and for this we would like to extend our thanks. Currently, we are told that remote learning provision will be required until half term. Presently, the Government has set out expectations that schools must set 4 hours of learning each day and that school staff have a responsibility to ensure that all children at home are accessing this provision. To be crystal clear, the home learning being set at home and in school follows what would be our usual schedule of teaching. Many of the topics we are teaching remotely are new topics to children and it is essential that they keep up with the provision offered otherwise they will fall behind. All pupils regardless of if they are remote learning at home or attending school cover the same content; this will support everyone's return to school by ensuring the children have covered the same curriculum. We recognise the many challenges that home learning brings, especially if you yourself are working from home or your child has siblings. It is for this reason that we ask you to keep all lines of communication open to us via Class Dojo to allow us to support you and your child as much as possible in terms of any questions and queries you have. We are excited about our curriculum and in the forthcoming weeks, we hope to offer more interactive opportunities for your child and we assure you, the Year 4 team is working as hard as they possibly can to provide engaging and varied provision.

Reading

Reading continues to be one of our top priorities. 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 realise that access to books is not as easy if your child is learning remotely, however we have no doubt that your child has a selection of books at home they could read as well as accessing the E-reader platform that the school subscribes to in order to give your children the opportunity to read hundreds of books at home! Please also consider utilising audiobooks, many of which can be found on YouTube, as an alternative way to enjoy a good story. It is essential that your child reads daily whether they are learning at home or at school so please ensure this takes place at least 5 times a week.

Spellings

As an essential skill, spelling is also 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 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.

Times Tables Rockstars

TTRockstars 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 for 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. The more they practise, the more confident they will be going into this check.

PE kits (for pupils attending school)

Whilst there are timetabled sessions for PE each week, it is vital children who are learning in school 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.

As always, the children's happiness and well-being continues to be our priority, if you or they are struggling, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us as soon as possible.

Stay safe.

Kind regards,

Mr R Medwell

Year 4 Team Leader, Class Teacher
& Assistant Headteacher

Miss R Porter

Class Teacher

Miss K Bland

Class Teacher

Mrs L Dobson

Class Teacher

Parental Engagement
Quality Standard

