



Healthy
Oxfordshire
Schools



Harwell Community Primary School

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Dear Families

Welcome to the new school year and to Year 4! We're really looking forward to a fun-filled year of learning.

We're starting the term with the topic Fantastic Beasts. The science link is Living Things and their Habitats and we've already been on a hunt for beasts in our school grounds, created, drawn and labelled our own fantastic beasts! We'll be learning about the importance of grouping, classifying and environmental changes and their effects on habitats. The animal theme continues with our Guided Reading book which is 'Charlotte's Web' by E B White.

In maths, we will be spending time on securing times tables that we've already learned (2, 5, 10, 3, 4 and 8) and ensuring sound knowledge of place value including thousands. The latter part of this term will focus on addition and subtraction. Overcoming the monster provides our fiction plot for literacy along with specific grammar eg pronouns and fronted adverbials. Our non-fiction writing will focus on non-chronological reports. **Swimming** continues - until half term - on Fridays, please ensure your child is well equipped every week and their **PE** kit should be in for the whole week as I usually take advantage of any good weather that we may be fortunate to have! Our usual PE day will be Thursdays.

Your child should continue to bring in their **reading record** every day with a reading book. We endeavour to provide time for reading every day and would love for anyone at home to spend 5 minutes listening and discussing too please. An initial in the reading record will confirm that this is happening and that would be great. We do keep a log of who brings their journal in every day to help us ensure everyone is being listened to by the staff so appreciate your co-operation with this. We are hoping to get a reading volunteer coming in regularly too and if any of you wish to do this please speak to me or Jane in the office.

Spellings that are to be learned this year will be sent out in due course - we will have specific spelling lessons and time spent on chrome books accessing Spelling Frame to

consolidate them. Please feel free to use this at home if you can. In addition to the national curriculum spellings for Year 3/4, we will focus on commonly misspelt words too and these will also be shared with you soon.

Children will be rewarded for effort as well as achievement so hopefully you will hear about their sense of pride, the smile or word or praise they received along with our in-class rewards - marbles in the jar, secret student and raffle tickets. Raffle tickets are hard to come by and this is high praise indeed which can lead to the prize box!

As you may or may not know, there is a new national test for **times tables** that comes into Year 4 this year. I will send comprehensive information (including websites/links/activities) for you regarding this next week. Working together will get the best results so we really appreciate any support you can offer at home to not only master the times tables but to help increase their speed as the criteria is to respond within 6 seconds

You are very welcome to our outcome, which will be in Y4, at **2.30 pm on Wednesday 23rd October**.

Any questions, please see me in the playground or send an email to the office.

Thank you for your continued support in our learning.

Mrs Martin, Mrs Paterson and Mrs Adams

