



Healthy
Oxfordshire
Schools



BRITISH
COUNCIL
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL AWARD



Harwell Community Primary School

The Styles,
Harwell,
OX11 0HX

Headteacher: Bryn Gibson

Telephone: (01235) 835337

Email: office.2563@harwell.oxon.sch.uk

September 2020

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 will be going on a hunt for beasts in our school grounds and create, draw and label 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 recalling times tables that your child should already know (2, 5, 10, 3, 4 and 8) and ensuring sound knowledge of place value including thousands. The latter part of this first half 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** will be on Tuesdays, 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 Thursday.

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 encourage everyone at home to spend 5 minutes listening and discussing too please. Just put an initial in the reading record which will confirm that this is happening. We do keep a log of who brings their record in every day to help us ensure everyone is being listened to by the staff so we appreciate your co-operation with this. Our reading volunteers are unable to come in at the present time but if this is something you may be interested in doing in the future, please let us know by emailing the office.

My Maths homework will be set - it is available from Friday and is expected to be completed by the next Friday. Should this be a problem, a chromebook can be made available for your child to complete during lunchtime.

Spellings that are to be learned this year will be sent out in due course. They will usually come home on a Monday and are expected in by the Friday of the same week. We will have specific spelling lessons and time spent on chrome books accessing Spelling Frame/Spelling Shed 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.

Children will be rewarded for effort as well as achievement so hopefully you will hear about their sense of pride, the smile or word of praise they received along with our in-class rewards - marbles in the jar, table points 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. We will send comprehensive information (including websites/links/activities) to you soon. We can't express enough how crucial knowledge of times tables is - it isn't just for the test - it is the building blocks of their continued learning in maths too. We need your support at home to do this please, working together will get the best results, especially as there are only 6 seconds to answer each test question! There are a multitude of online resources for this but you can also practise with a set of playing cards, with each step on the stair, using number plates on a journey, using objects etc.

Our outcome is scheduled for **2.45 pm on Monday 19 October**. The details on how this will be presented will be sent out nearer the time.

Any questions, please send an email to the office.

Thank you for your support in our learning and we look forward to getting to know you all soon.

Warm regards from the Y4 team:

Mrs Martin, Mrs Adams and Mrs Gowers

