



**Harwell Community Primary School**

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Dear Families

Welcome back, I hope you're all well. It's been lovely to see the children back in class this week.

Our topic this term is Bottoms, Burps and Bile which is a more fun way of saying we're studying the digestive system! Included in this is the study of our teeth and how to keep them healthy along with understanding food chains. The children have already drawn and created food chains and studied their own teeth using our dental mirrors. They then sketched their teeth and produced some great work. We'll be learning about the parts of the digestive system and how they work - which we'll recreate using playdough - and will culminate in a disgusting practical lesson towards the end of the term!

Times Tables Rock Stars which has been introduced this week has made the children very excited! The national test for Year 4 children will be in June and we have a challenging time ahead getting ready for it - the aim is for all 12 **times tables** to be known and timed to 6 seconds per question.. I 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. 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. I hope that helps to give you some ideas and these can be done for just **10 minutes each day**. We'll also be looking at multiplication and division along with length this term. Whilst writing voyage and return stories our focus needs to be on grammar and punctuation which this term will include speech, contracted apostrophes and expanded noun phrases. Our **PE** day will be **Thursday** and as before, children should come into school wearing their PE kit.

Your child should continue to bring in their **reading record** every day with a reading book. We read 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.

Please ensure your child is completing their **My Maths homework** - it is available from Friday and is expected to be completed by the next Friday. Should this be a problem please let me know.

**Spellings** will continue to come home on a Monday and are expected to be handed 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.

Thank you for your support in our learning and I look forward to meeting you online at parents' evenings next week. Any questions, please send an email to the office.

Warm regards

Mrs Martin