



Harwell Community Primary School

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Dear Families

Welcome to another new and interesting term! I hope you are all well and are looking forward to the 8th March as much as me! I'd like to say a huge thank you for your support last term, your understanding and positivity has been much appreciated. It's been lovely to see the children either in the classroom or online and I have been hugely impressed with their adaptability and eagerness to continue their learning.

Our project this term is Potions! Potions! Potions! which is a more engaging way of saying we're studying states of matter! Included in this is the study of solids, liquids and gases and their properties. We will identify their molecular differences in a variety of ways, for example, using our bodies, experiments and even creating our own wands and ice cream!

Times Tables Rock Stars has proven to be very popular and the majority of results show a significant improvement. I believe the national test for Year 4 children is still planned for and will be in June - 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 increasing our knowledge of fractions and time this term. Children should know the names of the hands of the clock, be able to tell an hour time eg 9 o'clock, 10 o'clock etc and within half an hour eg 9.30, 10.30 etc. We use time in our daily lives so this is easily something that could be supported from home and we appreciate your support so much. Our writing this term focuses on a quest story, the main character goes on a journey, overcomes a problem, retrieves something and returns. We are introducing more sophisticated techniques to our writing now that we are in the second part of Year 4, for example, showing feelings or characteristics rather than telling. Our grammar will continue to work on clauses, apostrophes and suffixes. Our non-fiction writing will be persuasive letters. I'm sure you already know that our reading book for the term is Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J K Rowling.

Please listen to your child read every day and discuss what they've read - can they

predict what might happen next?

Our **PE** day will be **Thursday** and as before, children should come into school wearing their PE kit. Our PE focuses on dance this term.

Our circle time this term is all about *Healthy Me*, and once we're back in school, the weekly certificates will reflect these.

Thank you once again for your support in our learning, it is very much appreciated.

Any questions, please send an email to me via the office.

I look forward to being back in class with your children and seeing you again at the end of the day.

Warm regards

Mrs Martin