



Harwell Community Primary School

The Styles,
Harwell,
OX11 0HX

Headteacher: Bryn Gibson

Telephone: (01235) 835337

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely summer break and are looking forward to the coming year. We wish you a warm welcome to Year 4 and I look forward to meeting you all!

This letter will provide you with information about the Autumn term and the Year 4 curriculum.

Our big question this term is: **Are Vikings misunderstood?**

This links to our topic of **Warriors** focusing on the Vikings. We will be exploring all about them in our History and Geography lessons. In **History**, we will focus on why we need to rely on secondary sources, who the Vikings were, what they are famous for, and their legacies. In **Geography**, we will be focusing on locational knowledge and geographical skills by using maps and atlases to locate the countries the Vikings came from, human and physical geography to identify the types of settlement and land use such as trading and farming.

Vikings will be our focus for our residential trip to Hooke Court at the end of the term which will be very exciting! Nearer the time, I will contact you again with invites to an information evening where I can let you know in more detail about what we will be doing and you can have the opportunity to ask any questions that you might have. If you would like to ask questions privately, please email me via the office and I will get back to you promptly.

In **Literacy** this term we will be writing myths and recounts whilst developing our grammar and punctuation which this term will include determiners, nouns, and pronouns. 'Charlottes Web' by E.B. White is our Guided Reading book which is a nice book to start the term with.

In **Maths**, we will be spending time recalling times tables that your child should already know (2, 5, 10, 3, 4, and 8) and ensuring knowledge of place value including thousands. The latter part of this first half term will focus on addition and subtraction.

In **Science**, we will be exploring states of matter, looking at solids, liquids and gases.

Our **circle time** this term is all about 'Being me in my world' which will cover; being part of a class team, being a school citizen, rewards and consequences, and having a voice.

In **Modern Foreign Languages**, we will be practicing listening, talking, reading, and writing in Spanish.

In **RE** this term regards Judaism which considers the question 'How special is the relationship Jews

have with God?’

Homework will begin this term on Monday 6th September. Children will be set multiplication tables to practise on Timetable Rockstars and spellings on SpellingShed each Monday (paper copies can be provided for anyone who experiences technical difficulties). Children will be tested on both their multiplications and spellings every Friday so it is in their interest to practise these. Should there be any problems, please let me know.

Please ensure your child brings in their reading record everyday with a reading book. We will provide time for reading everyday and have discussions of books that the children are reading throughout. We encourage everyone at home to spend at least 10 minutes reading everyday at home, either on their own, to you, or with a sibling. It would be appreciated if you could listen to your child read or discuss the book they are reading and record at least three of these in your child’s reading record to confirm it is happening at home.

PE will take place on Tuesday afternoons and our **swimming** slot this term is Thursday afternoons. Some points to remember:

- Please provide a swimming costume and hat
- No jewellery is permitted in the pool; so any earrings must be taken out. If your child can’t take them out please do so before they come to school
- All long hair must be tied back
- If, for any reason, you wish for your child not to swim or take part in a PE lesson, please may we ask for a written note from you to excuse
- PE will be taking place outside this term. Please make sure children come to school in their outdoor kits on Tuesdays
- To avoid lost kits, costumes, and hats can you please ensure all clothing is clearly labelled.
- Please also ensure children bring water to school in a labelled bottle.

Our outcome will focus on our residential trip and will be held on Tuesday 2nd November which is the first day back after half term. The details for how this will be presented will be sent out to you nearer the time. We will keep an eye on the government guidelines to ensure we do this in the safest way possible for you and your children and we will keep you updated throughout.

I hope this letter covers any queries you may have but if you have any further questions, please email the school office.

Thank you for your support in our learning and we look forward to getting to know you all soon for an exciting term!

Best wishes,

Miss Kirby and the Year 4 team