



Harwell Community Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I hope you all had a lovely relaxed half term and are well. I would like to say a huge thank you for your support last term. I hope you enjoyed the presentation showing what we did last term on Google Classroom. I am very grateful for the amount of junk modelling that was brought in to create our bridges. As you can see from the photos on the presentation, they were all incredible! We are very excited for another term of interesting and fun learning!

Our topic this half term is '**Fantastic Beasts**' with the big question '**What does a beast mean to you?**' In Science, we will be developing our understanding of different animals by grouping them into vertebrates and invertebrates through classification keys. In Geography, we will be doing plenty of fieldwork and outdoor learning to find minibeasts in their natural habitat in the forest area. We will also explore how the environment changes living things. In Art, we will use our outdoor learning experience to design our own patterns of animals which will be printing. This will be used when we design and create our own fantastic beasts!

In **Literacy** this term, our literacy story is about overcoming a monster story 'The Underworld.' For our non-fiction writing, we will be looking at an instruction text. We will be continuing to read our guided reading book 'How to train your dragon' by Cressida Cowell which we are all really enjoying! In **Maths**, we will complete our unit of fractions before moving on to decimals.

In **PSHE** we will be exploring 'Healthy Me', with a particular focus on forming healthy and supportive friendships and group work. We will also be learning about how we can keep ourselves and others healthy and safe.

PE will take place on **Tuesday afternoons** so please ensure your child comes into school wearing their PE kits. We will be focusing on gymnastics this term which I know will be enjoyable when we get the big apparatus out!

Homework will continue to be handed out every **Friday** so you can choose to complete it during the weekend if you wish. Children will be set multiplication tables to practice on **Timetable Rockstars** and spellings on **SpellingShed**. I will also continue to hand out a spelling practice sheet. I expect this sheet to be completed and handed in **each Friday**. Paper copies of TT Rockstars homework can be provided for anyone who experiences technical difficulties. Children will be tested on both their multiplications and spellings every Friday morning so it is in their interest to practice these. Should there be any problems, please let me know.

We also ask that children read for 10 minutes every day. This can be by themselves, to you or a

sibling. Please encourage reading at home as much as you can. If you could record at least two of these in your child's reading record that would be great.

Please continue to ensure your child brings in their reading record every day with a reading book. We will continue to provide time for reading daily at school and the children will have many opportunities to recommend the books they are reading to their peers. We have also introduced a top 5 reader list! Each week, I will choose 5 children who have shown me amazing reading and engagement with their books and they will be our 'top readers' for the week!

Mrs. Shorter will be covering my ECT and PPA time again this term and she will be teaching the class on Thursday and Friday mornings.

The **outcome** for this term will take place in the final week of term. There will be a letter to follow with more details.

There is also a **home project** taking place this term! This involves creating a habitat for the new fantastic beast they will be creating. This can be made out of shoe boxes or any junk modelling materials you have at home. These will then need to be brought in during the last week of term ready for our outcome.

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

Thank you again for all your support and we look forward to another exciting term!

Kind regards,

Miss Kirby and the Year 4 team.