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Dear Parents and carers,

### **Happy New Year!**

We have had an excellent first term together! It has been wonderful to get to know all the children and watch their progress flourish. Each and every individual and shown co-operation, respect, resilience, and kindness – I hope you feel as proud as we do! **Here is some useful information about what will be happening in Year 4 over the spring term.**

#### **Topic**

We are excited to be focussing on ‘**Extreme Earth**’ this half term. Here, children will learn across 3 subjects: science, geography and art. In science, children will learn about the digestive system and how the body breaks down foods, absorbs nutrients and expels what it no longer needs. In geography, we will explore extreme weather conditions. Children will learn why extreme weather conditions occur and the impact it has on communities across the world. Finally, in art, we will learn about artists that have captured movement and extreme weather in their art and create our own piece of art around this theme.

#### **Homework**

This term’s homework grid will be uploaded onto Microsoft Teams on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January. It will contain a variety of tasks for you to complete in any order you choose. Homework books will be collected on a **Friday** when we will have our ‘homework gallery’ where children can share their hard work with their classmates and the adults. Pupils will also be invited to share a book that they have been reading at home, this can be a book from school or a personal book. Please do encourage your child to work to the **best of their ability and take pride in their presentation.**

#### **Statutory spellings**

A list of statutory spellings will be uploaded onto Microsoft Teams along with the homework grid. These are a list of key words that children need to learn by the end of the year, so regularly practising at home will help! To support this, use different strategies that we will be using in school like, write the word as many times as possible in a minute, rainbow writing, box the tricky part of the word, Look-say-cover-write, draw a picture with the word, and pyramid writing.

#### **Healthy Snacks – Fruit and water**

Please ensure your child comes to school with a clearly named water bottle containing water only. Our water fountains will remain switched off due to Covid-19, so a water bottle is essential.

As part of our healthy eating initiative, do ensure that your child has a **piece of fruit or some vegetables** as a snack for morning break (avoiding crisps/biscuits/sweets/chocolate). Many thanks for your support with this.

## PE

Our PE day is on **Tuesday**, please **send your child to school wearing their PE kit**. The PE kit includes a white, plain t-shirt, black shorts or joggers, a black zip up top and trainers/pumps.

## Swimming

We will be swimming on a **Thursday**, please **send your child to school with their swimming kit**. They will need the following items: **a swimming costume / trunks, swimming hat and towel**. Unless for a medical reason, goggles are **not allowed** at East Manchester Leisure Centre.

## Reading

Children will have opportunities to read in school (though whole class reading sessions, reading with the teacher and independent reading), but we would very much appreciate your support with encouraging them to read daily at home, ideally to an adult. This will inspire a love of reading and has proven and significant benefits to children's academic performance. In KS2, there is a move from the mechanics of reading to comprehension. Therefore, when reading with them, ask questions to check their understanding, particularly focusing on:

- Retrieval questions (i.e. where you have to find the answer/information from the text)
- Inference questions (i.e. where it doesn't explicitly say the answer in the text, you use the clues and information to create an answer, for example why something is said or done)

## Maths

Our initial focus for this half term is on **Multiplication and Division**, we will complete a short unit on **Measurement (area)** and then as the term progresses we will concentrate on **Fractions** and **Decimals**. Supporting your child with an instant recall of their times tables and divisions up to 12 x 12 would be very much appreciated as all pupils in Year 4 are scheduled to take a Multiplication Test in June 2022.

More information about this can be found at:

<https://thirdspacelearning.com/blog/times-tables-test-parents-guide/>

A great website to practise is 'Hit the Button':

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>)

Remember, our gates open at around 8.45 for children to arrive punctually in class between **8.50 and 9.00**. Thank you for getting your children to school on time, ready to learn.

Finally, if you can, please discuss with your child the work they have done as the term progresses and let them teach you!

We're all really looking forward to continuing working co-operatively as our pupils continue their learning journey. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to approach myself or Mr Nightingale at the end of the school day or alternatively send an email.

Yours sincerely,

The Year 4 Team

Miss Bevan supported by Mr Nightingale