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9.1.17

Dear Year Four Parents,

Welcome back! We hope that you have had a lovely break and feel well rested. It was lovely to see so many smiling faces back on the first day.

**Curriculum:**

Topic – Rivers and Mountains

English- An Author Study; Non-Chronological Reports, Stories from other cultures; Explanation texts

Maths- Addition and subtraction, measures, money, fractions, 2D and 3D shape, multiplication and division, statistics, direction and movement.

RE – Ganesh; Religious Music

Science- States of matter; Sound

PE – Commando Joe; Football; Dance

**Home School Journal:**

Children in Year 4 continue to have a Home School Journal that is to be taken home daily and returned the next day. This will be used as a reading record for you to sign when your child has read at home. There is also a space for you to write any comments or questions you may have for us, or for staff to communicate with you about your child. The journal also contains a timetable for the Spring Term, detailing what lessons will be taught daily.

**Homework:**

Children in Year 4 will receive two pieces of homework each week, one Maths and one English. Homework will be sent home in homework books on Thursday each week, to be given back in on the following Tuesday. It will also be written in their home school diaries. Children are also expected to read for at least 20 minutes daily, as part of their homework. Please ensure that you sign your child's home school diary at home each time they read, either to an adult or independently. This term, the children are also completing an independent research project on Rivers and Mountains, details of which were sent home before Christmas.

Children will have spellings set for them to learn each Friday and will be tested on them the following Friday.

**Playtime Fruit and Snacks:**

Fruit at playtime is not provided for children in Key Stage Two, however if you wish to provide playtime snacks for your children, please provide them with a piece of fruit. Children may also bring in a labelled water bottle each day, which can be kept in the classroom. Please can all children make sure that they take their water bottle home at the end of the day. Please can we remind you that the children should only bring water in their water bottles, thank you.

We do ask that children **do not** bring nuts into school for break or lunchtime as we have a number of children who have nut allergies and as such, we are a nut free school.

**Behaviour Expectations**

Howes is a friendly and caring community and we are keen for our children to take on these and other values. Our house point system is proving effective at encouraging children to follow our golden rules and values. We would still very much like parents and carers to help us in reinforcing these rules and values with your children. Please can children be reminded that they should not bring toys into school, unless they have been given permission to do so.



**PE Kits and Uniform:**

This term, Year 4 pupils will have PE on Monday morning and Tuesday afternoon. Please ensure that your child has a named PE kit which should consist of a plain white T-shirt, black shorts and pumps; they can bring plain black/navy jogging trousers and jumper for outdoor lessons only. PE kits should be brought into school in a named, drawstring bag please. If for any reason your child is unable to take part in PE lessons, we require a note of explanation. Please can you remind your children that earrings should be removed before PE lessons, thank you.

Please also ensure that your child attends school wearing the correct school uniform. For information about this please visit: <http://howesprimary.co.uk/Uniform/>

Children with long hair should also come to school with their hair tied back please.

Please can we remind you that children who wear earrings should only wear studs or sleepers, thank you.

Please can we remind you that nail varnish should not be worn at school, thank you.

**Commando Joe**

Children in Year 4 will have their Commando Joe sessions each Monday. They will usually be outside for this, so they will need to ensure that they have appropriate outdoor clothes, such as jogging bottoms, a tracksuit top and trainers.

**Indoor/Outdoor Shoes:**

At Howes we ask the children to wear a pair of outdoor shoes to and from school and whilst outside at playtime/lunchtime as this enables them to make the most of the school grounds during the wetter weather. Once they arrive at school we ask the children to change into indoor shoes. Please could we ask you to encourage your child to bring a pair of named indoor shoes to keep at school, such as slippers, school shoes or pumps, thank you.

**Timings of the day:**

The start of a Howes school day in Year 4 usually begins with a Maths lesson starting straight after the register is taken. It is therefore very important that all pupils arrive promptly in order to start the school day at 8.55am. So that children are ready to come into school at this time, we would ask that all children are present on the playground at least 5 minutes before the school bell sounds.

The end of the school day for pupils in Key Stage 2 is at 3.20pm. Please note that this is 5 minutes later than Key Stage 1 pupils.

**Parent Helpers:**

At Howes we recognise the valuable contribution that all members of our community make to our school. We are always happy to welcome helpers into the classroom, so if you would like to volunteer to help in any way please do come and speak to Mrs Bolland. Here are some of the ways you may like to offer support:

- By joining the Friends of Howes team
- By hearing children read
- By supporting us on school trips
- By helping to organise Accelerated Reader or other resources

**Celebration Assemblies**

Our Friday Celebration Assemblies will be continuing this term at 9.00am. Two children from each class will be nominated to receive an award for an aspect of outstanding work, achievement or behaviour. Parents will be invited to come into school for the assembly when their child is awarded their certificate. You will receive a letter on a Wednesday to inform you that your child has been nominated.

**Absences and Medical Needs:**

We would like to remind you that if your child is going to be absent please telephone the school office at the number above as soon as possible. Any medication that your child requires during the day should be given to the Office, for a First Aider, in the original container and a medical administration consent form needs to be completed. Inhalers must be labelled and be handed in to your child's class teacher to be stored safely in the classroom.

**Important Events for Year Four pupils:**

Week Beginning 9 <sup>th</sup> January	School Clubs to start this week
19 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 3/4 trip to Coombe Abbey
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Young Voices
1 <sup>st</sup> February	Fire Service Visiting
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Healthy Living Day
15 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' Consultations
Week Beginning 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Staff Surgery
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3/4 Dress Rehearsal
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3/4 Performance
7 <sup>th</sup> April	End of Term
24 <sup>th</sup> April	Start of Term

Yours sincerely

Miss Gandy and Mr Page