



Dear Parents and Carers of Year 3 and 4,

I hope you had a brilliant half term break. Welcome back to an exciting, and hopefully sunny, summer term. We have got lots to look forward to including our trip to Holdenby House on Monday 24th June.

Please can we have a big push on homework this term. The Year 3 and 4 homework consists of the Google Classroom sheets as well as reading, Spelling Shed and TT Rock Stars. The easiest way to access Spelling Shed and TT Rockstars is on the mobile apps. These are really convenient and mean that it takes a matter of minutes for them to complete the tasks. If you have any questions about homework, please get in touch. Thank you for your support with this.

Curriculum

English – writing	Our history topic this term is Tudors and so all of our English will be using this exciting focus. Firstly, we will be writing a persuasive letter to Henry VIII, to try and persuade him to stop chopping off people’s heads! We will be learning all about persuasive devices like emotive language and rhetorical questions so apologies in advance if your children become more skilled in this area at home! We will also be looking at the structure of a letter and how to use paragraphs effectively to organise our writing. Our second unit of work will be writing a report about the Tudors. By this time, we will have been to Holdenby House and we will have learned so much that writing about the Tudors will be really fun. We will be focussing again on structuring our work into paragraphs and using subheadings correctly to help the reader locate information.
English – reading	We will be reading the chapter book, ‘Hodgeheg’ by Dick King Smith this half term. We will be using all our VIPERS skills but concentrating on ‘summarising’, ‘retrieval’ and ‘inference’ skills. The children will be asked to identify main ideas in key paragraphs, highlight key information, give brief verbal summaries and to make simple notes to help them summarise whole paragraphs or chapters. If you have this book at home please do read it alongside us in class and ask your children to tell you what they have been learning.
English - spelling	Week 1: common exception words e.g. opposite, possession, reign Week 2: y sounding like i e.g. Egypt, symbol, synagogue Week 3: word families e.g. multiply, multiplied, multiplying Week 4: contractions e.g. she’d, they’d, you’d Week 5: homophones e.g. meat and meet, plain and plane Week 6 onwards: reviewing and consolidating spelling rules learned this year
Maths	Our first unit will be all about shapes. We will look at the names of 2D and 3D shapes, their properties and then spend a few days reviewing area and perimeter as we found this tricky earlier in the year. After that we will look at data handling and statistics. We will interpret pictograms, bar charts and line graphs. Towards the end the year we are looking forward to consolidating our calculation skills, looking back at scale and ratio and maybe reviewing our knowledge about fractions for a few lessons too.

	Any support you can give the children on money and time would be beneficial please as now these skills have been taught they ideally need to be rehearsed at home.
Science	We are continuing exploring 'living things' in science this half-term, and very much hoping for pleasant weather as we shall be venturing out and about in our local environment to see what species we can discover and identify, and then reflect on how environments may change and the impact that this has on living things. Following this, we will have some time to refine our scientific skills through suggesting and carrying out our own scientific enquiries, including presenting results in different ways including charts and graphs as well as presentations.
French	We are finishing our learning in French this year with a story: Petit Chaperon Rouge (Little Red Riding Hood) In this unit pupils will learn how to listen and follow a familiar fairy tale in French; use picture and word cards to recognise and retain key vocabulary from the story; and name and spell at least four parts of the body in French as seen in the story.
History	This term the children will become historians, delving into the Tudor period. To begin with they will place the Tudor period of a timeline and explore the Tudor family tree, learning about why the Tudor Rose is a significant part of history. We will then focus on Henry VIII and learn about why he is a significant person in history, identifying some reasons for this, including how him having six wives contributes to this. Finally we will explore why Tudors had portraits painted of them and why this was important. Of course, the trip to Holdenby House will support the children's learning in this topic adding another experience to their learning.
Design and Technology/Art	<p>The first two weeks of this term will be spent bringing our 'battery-operated light' designs to life. We will create the structure before adding an electrical circuit and bulb.</p> <p>When our lights are complete, we will begin our final art topic of the year 'Portraits'. We will take time to look at the proportions and features of our face, practising drawing a self-portrait and developing our skills each week. Once we have developed our drawings, we will take inspiration from Pablo Picasso exploring how we can use colour to represent emotions. Then, after examining Picasso's cubist portraits, the children will create a final self-portrait composition where features of the face are distorted (just like in Picasso's work) and colour is used for emotional effect.</p>
RE	In RE, we will be continuing to learn about places of worship and their importance in the community. We will look at Hindu Mandirs and Sikh Gurdwaras in the first two lessons. Then we will look at why these places of worship are important to people and how special places help people to cope with big feelings. Then we'll think about how places of worship are used in a community and if multi-faith complexes are the way forward for new settlements rather than individual buildings- I'm sure some interesting discussion will be had in this lesson!
Computing	Across the school this half term we will be looking at coding in computing. This is the trickiest part of computing we do in primary school, which is why we leave it until the summer term. In Year 3 and 4 we will be using flowcharts to design a computer program, we will use timers, write 'if' statements in code and move objects using x and y coordinates. The children will be able to access their purple mash learning at home so if they wanted to do some coding at home and hone their skills then they are very welcome to!
PSHE	During this term our PSHE lessons will focus on Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing. We will explore the factors which contribute to a balanced and healthy life including good physical and mental habits such as exercising regularly, eating healthily and having a happy and positive attitude. We will discuss what 'good physical health' means and

	how we can identify and treat common illnesses. Finally, we will explore the importance of oral hygiene and how we can maintain good dental health. You will also be aware that this half term we will be completing our relationship and sex education lessons (RSE). A separate letter was sent last term explaining this in more detail.
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Swimming/PE Lessons

Swimming lessons will continue for another four weeks, with our last lesson being on the 26th June. Please make sure the children come to school **wearing their swimwear** under their PE school uniform. Please also ensure earrings are taken out before coming to school. Children will then only need their swimming hat, a towel and underwear in their swimming bags. All hair must be tied up for their lesson. This will be their PE lesson on the Wednesday.

Their second PE lesson will be on Thursday as usual. As the weather gets warmer (fingers crossed) please make sure you send your children into school with sunhats as their lessons will be outside.

If your child has had their ears pierced and is unable to take the earrings out for PE lessons on Thursday, please provide microporous tape for the children to cover their earlobes with. This tape can be kept in their drawers at school so they always have it to hand when needed.

As always if you have any queries or need to speak to me about something, please let me know on the gate or via an email and I'll help in any way I can.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Clarke
Year 3 and 4 Class Teacher