



Windermere Primary School

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Dear parents/carers,

Happy New Year! I hope that you have all had a lovely Christmas break. Over the Spring term your children are going to be studying these topics and taking part in lots of exciting learning opportunities.

English

We will be using a range of texts and videos to help us learn and apply persuasive writing techniques, including *The Day I Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish!* We will continue to develop our understanding of punctuation to ensure that capital letters, full stops and commas are consistently used correctly. In grammar lessons we will learn more about main and subordinate clauses. Spellings will continue to be given out on a Monday. We have a dictation lesson on Fridays to enable the children to apply their learning. It is very important that your child practises their spellings regularly at home, to help them build confidence and become more independent in their reading and writing. Please can you ensure that your child brings their spelling book into school on these days so that they can have their new spellings to take home and so that they can see how well they are doing in the dictation sessions. Reading books will be changed on a Friday and the children are also able to choose a second book from the library to take home and read.

Maths

This term we will continue to develop fluency in addition and subtraction and solving 'real life' problems. We will also be focussing on:

- multiplication and division
 - learning the 11 and 12 times tables and revising all the other tables regularly
 - identifying factor pairs
 - multiplying 2 digits by 1 digit
 - using efficient methods to multiply
 - recognising the relationship between multiplication and division
- area and perimeter

Science

In the first few weeks we will be rounding off the topic of Human Impact, looking at how different factors affect our environment and the food chain. We will be thinking about the decisions we can make to improve and protect our world.

We will then move onto studying animals in our topic *Who Am I?* We will be learning to observe, sort and classify animals using databases.



Computing

We will be learning to create programs by planning, modifying, and testing commands to create shapes and patterns.

Art

This term we will be developing our observational skills through still life drawing.

Design and Technology

We will be learning about mechanisms, including levers and linkages, to help us create moving parts in a story book.

Geography

Our focus in geography is volcanoes and earthquakes, and the impact these have on the landscape and settlements nearby.

History

We will continue our learning about Ancient Greeks.

PE

In PE will develop our skills in gymnastics, dance and swimming.

Our PE days have now changed to Thursday and Friday. Swimming will take place on Friday afternoons. Your child will need to bring a swimming kit with swimming costume/trunks/shorts, towel, hair bobble and swimming hat for long hair. Please can you ensure that your child has their PE kit in school at all times, as we are often able to participate in additional sessions throughout the year. This term we are excited to be able to participate in some coaching sessions run by Watford FC. We try to take the children outside for PE as much as possible, so your child will need a separate pair of suitable trainers and long jogging bottoms. If your child normally wears tights, they will also need a separate pair of socks in their PE bag.

Helping your child

In order to help your child learn effectively and grow in their independence, please support them to be ready and equipped for the school day.

- Children feel more settled and ready to learn when they arrive at school on time.
- Make sure they go to bed at a reasonable time.
- Limit screen time in the evenings, especially just before bed.
- Listen to your child read each day and sign their journal. Children are able to choose a brand new book to keep from our Reading Reward collection in the library every time an adult at home has heard them read 25 times.
- Read a story to your child regularly.
- Help them to complete their homework and to learn their spellings.
- Help them to learn their times tables.
- Ensure they have all the right equipment for school.

Equipment:

- Named book bag, reading book, reading record, library book, named water bottle, clearly named clothing (uniform and PE kits), named lunchbox if required.

Our homework grid will go up onto Google Classroom in the next couple of weeks. Any work completed can be uploaded onto Google Classroom. Please do not use this as a platform for adding photos that do not relate to the home-learning topics, as it can detract from the learning focus.

Best wishes,

Mrs Nesbitt and the Year 4 team