

Dear Narwhal children, parents and carers,

Welcome back!



We had such a busy term last term, it was lovely getting to know the children a little better and I feel we are already making great progress so far this term. new topic is: What makes a family? (you can see our topic web on the school website) which links to our whole school value for the term of Community.

I will have my planning and assessment time on Wednesday afternoon each week. A Champion teacher will be covering these sessions for us this term. I will let you know who this will be as soon as possible by Wednesday morning at the latest. I will endeavour to remind the children on a Tuesday that they will have a Champion teacher the following day.

Aneela works predominantly with Rhino class but we do still see her! Paul and Ellie work in Narwhal with us on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. (Paul works mornings and Ellie works afternoons)

We are looking forward to: our DT project, which will involve cooking and taking some food over to Redfield Lodge where we will share some festive songs with the residents, a trip to St George's Park to classify and collect data on the animals in the park, linking to our Science topic.

### **Land and Trips**

Land Event: 7<sup>th</sup> December 9:00a.m.

Trip: 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1:00 – 3:00p.m. animal classification in St Gorge's park

Trip: 6<sup>th</sup> December (time TBC Festive music and fun with Preludes)

Trip: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. visit to Redfield Lodge (share DT project)

### **Drop off and pick up**

Please drop your children off at the gates between 8.45am and 8:55 am, from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September **lessons start promptly at 8:55 am**. Please collect children at 3:25pm on the Astroturf to the left of the playground.

### **Class Expectations**

- We will continue to practice our Redfield Way this year, and will always aim to be kind, safe and ready. We are so excited to share and celebrate our Year 4 achievements, both in school and at home.
- We won't have a designated 'show and tell' time in class, but if you have an achievement or piece of learning from out of school that you are excited to share, we would love to see it – you can bring it in or send us a picture/video on Seesaw to share in class.
- Please don't bring in toys or stationery from home – we have lots in school and it can be upsetting if special possessions get lost or broken. If you are bringing something in for the day to share, please let us know so that we can keep it somewhere safe.

**PE**

- Our PE days are **Tuesday** and **Wednesday**. Please ensure children come to school on those days wearing clothing and footwear suitable for PE (trainers, t-shirt, leggings, joggers or shorts).

### Spellings

- This year, we will be using **Spelling Shed** for home spelling practise, each week's list of words will be linked to a particular spelling pattern, which will be taught in lessons throughout the week.
- Spelling tests will take place on a Friday morning, spelling lists can be found in children's reading records, on spelling shed and on our website class page.

### Reading

- Reading at home can have a huge effect on children's progress, as well as encouraging them to read for pleasure.
- All children will bring reading books home from school and they may have books of their own choice from home or the public library that they choose to read.
- Children should read independently or to an adult at least 5 times a week for 10 minutes.
- If your child mainly reads on their own, it is helpful to talk to them about what they're reading and ask them to summarise what they have read so far.
- We are still awaiting our delivery of reading records, so will update you on their use when they arrive.

### Times Tables

- We practice times tables frequently in school but any extra practice at home is always useful – they provide the building blocks for lots of our maths, so it really builds children's confidence to be fluent in their times tables.
- All children have 'Timestables Rockstars' logins written in the back of their reading record, please let us know if they need their login again.
- A little practice each day makes a huge amount of difference and there are lots of times table apps that can be used for this. Hit the Button has a free website and an app that can be purchased, and there is a free Apple app called 10 Minutes a Day Times Tables.

### Communication

- Seesaw is the easiest way to contact us and we can call you back if you send a message. We aim to reply to Seesaw messages within 72 hours.
- Please **don't** use Seesaw for emergency messages as we cannot check them while teaching or in meetings. Continue to call the office for emergency messages.
- A member of the Year 4 team will be available on the playground between 3.20 and 3.30 every day. We are happy to catch up for an informal chat then and can arrange a meeting for longer conversations – we will aim to arrange meetings within a week.
- We will send out all school messages through Seesaw, so please let us know as soon as possible if you are having trouble accessing your account. We will also update Seesaw with news about our learning in class and photos of the children's work.
- The school website will be updated termly to share topics maps, spelling lists and any additional resources that can support learning at home.

### **Can you help?**

- We would like to build a directory of skills or expertise that our families would be willing to volunteer in school.
- Please could you let us know if you would like to support in school and have a particular skill (for example an art technique or drama experience) or area of expertise that you would be willing to talk about (such as a career, religion, or knowledge of a different country or culture).
- We would love to involve as many families as possible in our learning, and year groups across the school may ask to draw on your expertise.
- If you are interested in and able to support on trips or visits this year, we would also love to hear from you.
- Thank you in advance if you can contribute!

Kind regards,

Laurie