

# Welcome back to HBP : Spring 2016

Happy New Year! We hope you have had a restful Christmas break and are ready for an exciting and hardworking spring term. Thank you so much for the lovely Christmas cards and gifts. Mrs Bakermault and I were both touched by your kindness and are looking forward to spending the vouchers. Although only back for a week, your children have already made a great start and we are really looking forward to the term ahead. In my experience the spring term is the most rewarding as it is when some children really come on in leaps and bounds in their learning.

## Creating independent learners

We are continuing to focus on making your children more independent learners. Once a piece of work has been marked, the children are expected to make corrections and we have set aside lesson time in English where the children redraft and improve aspects of their writing. We are encouraging children to set their own level of challenge in maths, often allowing them to choose which activity to start on, based on how well they have understood the concept. We are also teaching your children not to get despondent and give up when a task seems hard but to realise that we all struggle initially and that is all part of good learning.

## Curriculum at a glance

**Topics: Vikings- Look out for our exciting workshop on 27<sup>th</sup> January when children are invited to dress up as a Viking for the day.**

**We then move onto a Local study in History and Geography.**

<b>Literacy</b>	Writing based around the legends of Robin Hood Two spelling sessions a week <i>Grammar focus-adverbial phrases, relative clauses, adverbs of possibility</i>	
<b>Mathematics</b>	Written methods for division; fractions, decimals and percentages Times tables will be tested regularly Applying knowledge to word problems	
<b>Science</b>	Y4 Sound. Living things & habitats	Y5 Animals inc. Humans. Living things & habitats
<b>RE</b>	Y4 How do religious beliefs affect the way people live?	Y5 Rites of passage
<b>ICT</b>	Y4 Coding & Databases	Y5 Coding & Spreadsheets
<b>Music</b>	Creating music with GarageBand. Making musical instruments	
<b>Art</b>	Y4 Saxon mosaics	Y5 Saxon mosaics
<b>PE</b>	Hockey, Netball/Tennis, Gymnastics. Swimming for Years 3 & 4 (Fridays)	

### Trips, visits and key dates

Y4 swimming every Friday

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> January open Literacy lesson for Curzon parents-  
do come and see your child at work!

## Homework Timetable (unchanged since the autumn term)

Subject	Day set	Day due in	Time
Literacy	Wed	Mon	35 mins
Numeracy	Wed	Mon	35 mins. Also keep revising times tables
Spelling	Mon	Mon	Practise 3x each week (15 mins each time) Session 1= writing the words in a sentence. Choice of learning methods for sessions 2 and 3.
Reading	Mon	Mon	Read aloud 3x each week

### How you can best support with homework:

It is always hard to know how much or how little to help and it can be tempting to do it for them.

Here are some guidelines that might help:

- Encourage your child to take responsibility for completing homework.
- Hear your child read and discuss their reading with them (Ideas for questions were handed out at Meet the Teacher-please ask if you would like another copy.)
- Keep testing your child on their times tables.
- Ask your child to check in their Maths book for examples of similar work.
- Help your child think of some ideas to write about and jot down some notes.
- Encourage them to proof-read their writing (often easier if done aloud) to correct any errors and make improvements.

### Celebrating achievements

We enjoy hearing about children's achievements outside school. Please record any extra-curricular achievements in your child's homework diary. As always, I look forward to celebrating talents and awarding certificates in assembly on Tuesdays.

### Tests and assessments

Throughout the term, the children will be tested on their times tables. If they do not score highly enough, they may be asked to practise their times tables at lunchtimes. In order to reach the expected level at the end of year 6 in either 2017 or 2018, your child will need to pass a times tables test set by the government. So, now is the time to really nail those times tables!

We will be holding maths and reading tests this half term and assessing your child's independent writing. We will share results of tests and your child's next steps with you at the next parents' evening.

### Finally

Thank you to those parents who have been coming in to hear children read. If you would also like to help, please do let us know. We can never have too many parent helpers!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or concerns. You are very welcome to come and see me on the playground before/after school or jot down a note in the homework diary. Thank you for all your support. Mrs Bakermault and I look forward to working in partnership with you again this term.

Mrs Payne (HBP Classteacher and Deputy Headteacher)