



Head Teacher : Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

*Aim High*

*Never Give Up*

*Follow Your Dream*

*Lead By Example*

December 2013

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of a very successful 2013, we look forward to a well-deserved Christmas break and the beginning of 2014. Year 4 have enjoyed the World War 2 topic and I am pleased with the work produced by all children.

Our new learning next term will be based on Animal Kingdom. This theme will be science and geography based, whilst also forming the basis for literacy; art; music and PSHE work.

#### **MAIN LEARNING THEME – ‘The Animal Kingdom’**

##### **Areas of study for the first half of the spring term will include:**

- Conservation
- Endangered Species
- Habitats
- Life cycles

#### **KEY VOCABULARY FOR LEARNING THEME:**

Endangered, conservation, habitat, extinction, wild, domestic, adaptation, carnivore, common, herbivore, omnivore, predator, prey, threatened, veterinary, preservation.

#### **LEARNING SKILLS – Improving Own Performance**

The main focus will be based on these statements:

- I can remember to bring items to school
- I can identify simple strategies that have helped me learn something new
- I can think of simple ways of improving the way I have done something
- I can use prompts to help me finish a task on time e.g. 10 min warning

#### **NUMERACY**

The main objectives are as follows: number work, calculations, problem solving, shape, measures and data handling.

We will also be focussing on mental maths and times tables. We will be working on **Block A2 – Counting, partitioning and calculating using effective written methods, symbols and images, fractions and rounding; Block B2 – Securing number facts, calculating using decimals, solving problems, properties shapes; Block C2 – Handling data and measures, including the likelihood of events.**

#### **LITERACY**

Following the success of Read, Write Inc phonics, Norwood have invested in the programme Read, Write Inc Literacy and Language. The aim of this programme is to continue the good progress from the phonics programme in Key Stage 1, and therefore embed skills through regular exposure to phonics alongside quality texts that develop their comprehension and writing skills. Next term year 4 will be studying **Poetry, Stories that raise a dilemma/issue** and **Information Texts**

It is vital that pupils are able to read fluently and confidently before being exposed to the new programme. Therefore, we are currently in the process of assessing pupils' reading ability across school. This will ensure that each child accesses literacy learning at an appropriate level regardless of their age group. From the beginning of the Spring Term, each child will access either Read, Write Inc Phonics, Read, Write Inc Fresh Start or Read, Write Inc Language and Literacy. Children will be regularly assessed and parents will be kept informed of their progress, with the aim that all children will eventually be accessing the Literacy and Language programme. Children that are already accessing additional support for reading will continue to access this alongside the Read, Write Inc provision.



## **ICT**

Children will continue to access the class set of Netbooks to support and develop their learning across the curriculum. Children will look at using a variety of ICT programs such as Word; PowerPoint; Database software and graphical/ data handling tools; along with recording equipment and film storyboard software. Children will regularly access the Internet as a source of information and to develop their skills of scanning and retrieving key information; taking notes and recording information in their own words. Children will also utilise E-Learning programmes to practise and apply skills learnt across the curriculum. E-safety is of great importance and will be imbedded into all ICT and will be focused on specifically in PSHE.

## **PE**

Children will continue to partake in two hours of PE each week. Please remind your child that they should bring their PE kit into school on a Monday, **leave it in school all week** then take it home to be washed on a Friday. This way, if we choose to do extra PE, the children will have their kit in school. Can we remind you that school rules state that for the safety of your child, earrings need to be removed for PE (which needs to be done independently) or plasters (provided by home) need to cover the earrings. Children with long hair will also be asked to ensure that it is tied back. With the weather deteriorating for the winter, please ensure they have appropriate outdoor kit, including spare socks, gloves and long trousers/sleeves.

## **READING**

Please continue to encourage your child to read at home, it is crucial to support their progression with reading comprehension and has a vital impact on their own writing across the curriculum. The children have the opportunity to visit the library at lunchtime and once a week as a class; in this session, they can change their library book. There is also extra provision on a Wednesday for some children to have reading time with an adult. Children should be developing the ability to choose a book that is both suitable and interesting for them, which they finish in its entirety. Please encourage your child to read a variety of texts, including stories, non-fiction, magazines, comics, children's newspapers and poetry. The children are expected to fill in their reading record books, and these should be brought to school throughout the week. Stickers showing the specific reading focus the child has been learning that week will also be placed into the reading record books so it is imperative that every child brings in their reading record book every day to school; especially on a Friday, when house points will be available to those children completing reading each week!

## **HOME LEARNING**

Your child will receive a weekly activity in their Learning Logs, which will be given out on a Wednesday and should be returned on the following Tuesday. Every Tuesday, one Learning Log per class is chosen to be shared in the whole school assembly on Thursday. Your child will also be awarded House Points for the work produced in their Learning Logs. The way in which the work is presented is entirely up to the child. In addition, there will be Literacy and Language and/or numeracy homework set.

Home learning is expected to be completed each week at home and handed in on time by Tuesday. If children do not meet this requirement then they will complete the home learning during break time. Can you please ensure that your child completes their home learning each week. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher.

In addition to this, your child can choose to undertake a half term home learning project, which could be the focus of their homework for the beginning of the term. This project is not compulsory, but is a fantastic way to involve family and friends in their learning. This can involve the whole family and should be linked to our topic theme; the more creative the better!

## **TRY YOUR BEST AND HAVE FUN!!**

**We have had a fun and packed term and have really enjoyed all our learning. We now look forward to starting next term in a continued positive way, working together as a class towards another term full of new and exciting learning opportunities; which we are certain will continue to be enjoyed through our next stages of Year 4.**

Yours sincerely

Miss Gilmour-Hoy  
Class Teacher

Mrs McFarland  
Teaching Assistant

Mrs Gill  
Teaching Assistant

Mrs Reynolds  
Head Teacher

