



Year 4 Meet & Greet Information 2016-2017

This letter is to outline how you can support your child this year and follows up on the meeting held on Thursday 8th September.

The **Yr 4 team** this year is: **Ms Essex** teaching **Jaguar Class** and **Ms Sweeney** teaching **Leopard Class**. For the mornings each week the year group will be assisted by **Ms Maude**, who will go between the classes. If a child needs extra support in their learning then they will go out for a session in the afternoon with a teaching assistant to complete an intervention. Our planning time will be covered by **Ms Martin** and **Mr Holloway**.

Home-learning: This is handed out on **Thursday** and due back on **Tuesday** the following week. Home-learning is sent out in a blue book with the details printed and stuck in. Guidelines are given in terms of how much time should be spent on each of the areas (overall the home-learning should be between 1.5-2 hours per week). Please make sure that there is time set aside for the home-learning to be completed and indeed a designated place where the work can be done is also useful. Good presentation is very important because we encourage the children to take pride in their work.

Reading books: These will be chosen independently by the child (where appropriate to their needs). The children will bring home a reading record where the comment box should be filled in two times a week. Ideally, this should always be filled in by the child. However, if your child finds writing difficult then we are happy for you to scribe for your child for this piece of work. Guidelines for what should be written can be found in their home learning books and also there are additional suggestions in the reading record. This reading record should then be returned to school each Tuesday with the home-learning book. ***It is essential that you listen to your child read at least 3 times a week – even if your child is a confident reader. If your child isn't a confident reader you need to listen to them more often. You should have a good discussion around the texts that your child is reading.***

If you have any concerns or questions relating to the home-learning, then please write in the 'parent comment section' of the home-learning sheet. It is also good for us to know if your child has enjoyed a particular piece of work, as all this information will give us a better understanding of your child as a learner. Home-learning books and reading records which are handed in late, without a valid reason, will not be marked. The children will stay in during their break time if they have not completed their home-learning and do not have a note.

PE sessions: These are on Wednesdays and Thursdays for both Year 4 classes. It is very important the children have a **labelled school** PE kit (T-shirt, shorts, tracksuit bottoms and plimsolls or trainers) in school at all times. No jewellery, including watches, can be worn during PE and long hair must be tied back. Please provide the children with a **small bag** in which to keep their footwear for the astroturf (MUGA) as this will help keep our cloakroom and corridors tidy. Trainers may be used for indoor PE but must be non-marking and specifically used for indoor lessons.

Lost property: As the children go up through the school they need to become increasingly more independent. All items of clothing, particularly PE kits should be named. If anything does go astray, you are welcome to check their classroom coat rack at the end of the day and then the lost property area at the bottom of the hub stairs.

Lateness: This can be very disruptive to the class as early work sessions begin as soon as they enter. We often find that if children miss early work it can be unsettling for them for the whole of the first session. School starts at 8:50 promptly. Children will be registered late after 9:00. Please report reasons for absence

by telephone / letter as soon as possible. If they are due to participate in an after school club please make the school aware.

Playground before and after school: It is lovely to have children in school on time, but we remind you that the children in the playground between 8.30-8.50 and after 3.30 are the parents' responsibility especially in light of the climbing frame - we do not supervise at this time. No scooters, bikes or footballs are allowed during these times.

Snacks: Please make sure that the children are provided with either fruit or vegetables as a healthy snack for story time.

Birthday Treats: The children often enjoy celebrating their birthdays with their classmates. However, we have a 'no hard sweets' policy. However, the children are allowed to bring in cakes and chocolate.

Communication: Text messages will only be sent out for emergency information or reminders for collective meetings. They will not be sent out for general reminders. You must have registered with ParentPay. Please email the office if you wish to get in touch with the teacher at admin@tetherdownschool.org. Teachers will respond to e-mails within 5 working days. Where we can we will often have a face-to-face or phone conversation, especially around issues. The school website is also often updated with information and there is also a link to the Tetherdown Twitter page, which can be accessed via the school website.

Your child should receive trip letters at least 4 weeks before the trip or workshop date. **Payment and permissions are made through Parent Pay.** For further details please see the link on the website. If you have problems in logging on please contact Ms Marlene Benjamin in the office, who will happily help you out. If 95% of the monies is not collected two weeks before the trip, we will unfortunately be forced to cancel the trip, as the school funds can no longer subsidise shortfalls. Please note that **no photographs taken by parents in school or on school trips** may be shared on any social media sites.

Helping out in Year 4: In light of the changes to our Teaching Assistant system, we would welcome any help with Year 4 administration duties and cooking. This would mean giving up some of your time across the school year. Ideally, we would like two parents from across the two Year 4 classes to help out every Thursday with administration duties for roughly one hour from drop off time. We would like one parent to coordinate this and organise the other parents on a rota. There may also be other occasions when we would like help. For these occasions, we intend to contact the parent volunteer coordinator.

Y4 Learning Philosophy: Please refer to the half-termly topic letter in reference to the curriculum. We encourage an independent learning style in Year 4, where the children take responsibility for their own learning, using their energy, creativity, critical thinking skills, self-initiative, enquiry and investigation skills.

Marking and Feedback Policy: You will notice that the children's work is marked in various ways; sometimes by the teacher; sometimes by the child themselves and sometimes by another child in the class. The marking is often in relation to the expectations and the criteria of the lesson and not necessarily focused on presentation or spelling for each occasion.

Assessment and reporting to Parents.

We will no longer be reporting to parents/carers using levels. Instead we will be reporting whether your child is at the beginning of year expectations, working towards year expectations, secure within year expectations or working at greater depth. Our assessments will also focus on how your children learns.

Please note that there is a Parent Workshop planned to further explain the New National Curriculum and Assessments (Thursday 29th September 2016 at 7.00 – 8.30pm).

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that all letters to the school should come through the child to the class teacher- not directly to the office (all payments must be made through Parentpay).

If you have any concerns or questions at any point in the year then please come in and arrange a meeting.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Essex and Ms Sweeney