

Dear Families,

Welcome Back!

It has been such a joy to see the children return to school this week. Everyone seems taller, refreshed, and ready for the year ahead!

We've spent our first week settling in and getting to know each other. The children created their own '*Getting to Know Me Hexagons*', answering fun questions such as their favourite colour, food, music, hobby, holiday, and subject. Afterwards, they moved around the classroom to see who they could connect their hexagon to — a brilliant way for new Year 3s to get to know our Year 4s and vice versa.

We also enjoyed a classroom scavenger hunt, where Year 3s searched for important items with help from their Year 4 friends. Together, we also worked as a class to agree on some important classroom rules, and everyone has promised to follow these rules throughout the year. Finally, on Friday we went out onto the playground to connect with our environment and look for some wow moments in nature, which will lead us into our RE topic on Creation.

In **Maths**, we began our unit on place value, revising the value of tens, hundreds, and thousands. In **English**, we started our new class novel, *Danny the Champion of the World*. The children are already very engaged with the story. If your child has a personal copy at home, they are welcome to bring it in (with their name clearly written inside).

Important Reminders:

Swimming

We start our swimming lessons next **Monday, the 8th**. Please ensure your child brings their swimming bag to school with:

- Swimsuit
- Towel
- Goggles

Open Classroom

Wednesday 10th, from 3:15–3:40pm, we will be holding an **Open Classroom**. This is a chance for you to come in, see your child's learning environment, and have an informal chat with us. During this time, we will also hand out an **information pack** to help you support your child's learning at home.

Food Allergies

We have a child in our class with **severe food allergies**. For their safety, please ensure your child does not bring the following items to school:

- Nuts or products containing nuts
- Kiwi

- Legumes (including all beans and seeds)
- Sesame
- Raspberries & cherries

Please be also careful with foods containing dairy or egg.

We really appreciate your support and understanding in keeping our classroom a safe place for all children. In Class 3 the children take their snacks out onto the playground at morning break and we encourage them to wash their hands once they have eaten.

Tennis Taster

On Tuesday, the children need to come to school in their PE kit. They will be having a tennis taster session, which should be fun for everyone.

Eco committee and School Council elections

Elections will be held next Tuesday in classes for School Council and Eco Committee members. Children who wish to take part have been given an election poster to help them reflect on why they would make a good School Councillor or Eco-Committee member.

Homework - spelling:

As it's the start of the year, we are introducing homework gradually to allow the pupils (and parents!) time to get back into the swing of things and feel confident with routines. We will introduce times tables/maths homework later this term. Each week the pupils will get one spelling/handwriting sheet to complete in their orange book ahead of their weekly test. For Year 4s this work is given out on Wednesdays and tested the following Wednesday. Year 3s are given their work on Fridays and tested the following Thursday.

To complete this homework all pupils should be using pencil, attempting cursive handwriting and using the guidelines on the sheet to help. They should copy each word two or three times (depending on space on the line). Please check they have copied the spellings correctly and please discuss the word meanings with the children too - this is a great way to reinforce understanding and develop vocabulary as the Year 3 and 4 spellings are typically quite challenging. Children love learning new words and practising them - often these are the sorts of words that would really elevate their written work if used appropriately so it's hugely helpful to support them with this.

Homework - reading:

We have reminded pupils that they should be reading regularly at home (ideally every day). This is perhaps the single most useful thing you can do to support your child's learning (top tip: if they are watching TV put the subtitles on - it's been proven to improve reading fluency!). Please use the parent information packs for reading prompts and be sure to encourage your child to ask for clarification on anything they don't understand - at this age fluency in reading is one of the main aims but discussion is vital too to aid comprehension skills.

Your child should have a yellow reading record where you can record their reading. Starting from next week we will be checking these records each week and the expectation is that **parents/carers will add at least three entries into the diary per week**. We will award team points for this and pupils will earn extra team points for additional entries - we appreciate pupils often have busy lives outside of school but if you can get more entries that's great!

These diaries will be checked on spelling test days (Year 3 Thursday/Year 4 Wednesday) although pupils should bring their diary in every day.

Please note: we have devised a rota for one-to-one reading to ensure that pupils who may need additional support (based on prior attainment) will receive this regularly in class. We will also listen to other readers but please be aware that this won't be every week. If you would like to volunteer to hear readers in school please do get in touch as this would help us to expand our capacity for this.

Apologies for the lengthy email this week, but as it is the start of the year there are a lot of things to tell you all about. We look forward to seeing you at the Open Classroom on Wednesday.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Mrs Miller and Mr Sturgess.