



**Danube Class Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back to school and a warm welcome to year 4! I will be writing to you on a weekly basis with information about our week and what is to be expected over the forthcoming weeks.

This year we will not be hosting a 'welcome evening' so I shall take this opportunity to introduce the staff for this year. My fantastic team are made up of: Mr Woodhouse, Mrs Slater, Miss Lavandeira, Mr Gilroy-Lowe, Miss Unia. Some of these members of staff will be with us either morning or afternoon and then going elsewhere for the other half of the day. Mrs Whidbourne will be teaching Science on a Monday afternoon to cover my SLT time starting with the topic 'Habitats'. Madame Vergier will be teaching French on a Tuesday afternoon to cover my PPA time followed by a new lady Mrs Slator teaching the class music.

I am sure you are all aware of the class routine, we follow a very similar setup to year three as we make up our 'lower keystage two team'. I will attach to this letter a copy of the 'Class Essentials' the only slight change for this year is allowing children to go home alone if they live nearby. If you think your child will be safe to get home independently please can I ask you to write me a dated letter to keep on record. If your child is going home on a playdate or with another adult please let me know in the morning.

This week in literacy, we have started a reading project based on the work of Maurice Sendak the author of 'Where the Wild Things Are'. The children have been learning about his life, reading the book and designing a book review poster. I would recommend watching the film if you get a chance to. We have been also using the text as inspiration, by writing an adventure story including what would happen to us if we were to meet a monster. This term our theme is 'Passports around the world' with a focus on rainforests, we will use this as our inspiration for writing up until half term.

In maths, we have started with a focus on place value, continuing with the Singapore maths style of teaching. We have been looking at counting in 25's, 50's, 100's and 1000's. Please do ask your child about our Maths lessons as any follow up work that is done at home is greatly appreciated. Next week we will be starting early work with a focus on Maths for three days and handwriting for two days. Now that we have reached year 4 please can I ask that you drop your children at the classroom door in the mornings, so that I can make sure they are all working quietly and independently on their work. However I am of course available to speak to if need be.

In terms of the afternoons, we will have PE every Friday for the first hour starting next week, so please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school. This year we will be swimming again that will start in February and letters will go out in due course. Our library session will take place on Wednesday afternoons after lunch. During these sessions, our children are encouraged to borrow a range of books from the school library for their independent reading. Children should be reading at home **daily** either with parents or independently.

You may notice that your child's homework looks a little bit different from last year; with the spelling table inserted to make the 'look, cover, write' model easier. As well as this, children will have weekly times tables to revise, which are due in on the **following Thursday**. In addition, each term children will receive a 'Homework Map', with a choice of projects to choose from.

This Friday's newsletter from Mrs Bagnall, will be sent via 'parentmail' as our website is currently being updated. If you do not receive 'parentmail' please see Diana in the hall in the mornings.

Have a lovely weekend and please do pop your head in if we have not met.

Best wishes,

Betty Cranham.

### **Dates for your diary**

- 25<sup>th</sup> September - Science Day
- 9<sup>th</sup> October - Harvest Festival