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Dear Parent/Carer,

This half-term in Year 4

We are sending this letter to give you some details of what your child will be learning about this half-term and details of key dates/events you might wish to take note of.

This is what our topics are in the key subjects:

Subject	What is covered	Suggestions for things to do at home.
English	<p>Writing to entertain and building tension in our writing - The Secret Garden - using short sentences, scary sounds, description of places, vocabulary that creates a certain effect, keeping things hidden from the reader.</p> <p>Diary Writing - in the style of Diary of a Wimpy Kid - writing about the things we did on our residential trip/what we did in school.</p>	<p>Please try to encourage your child to read 5 times a week - asking them questions about what they have read so far and what they think might happen next.</p> <p>Take time to talk about what they did at Aylmerton or in school (if they are unable to come)</p> <p>Have they read a Diary of a Wimpy Kid book? Discuss the style and presentation.</p>
Maths	<p>Fractions - finding fractions of quantities and ordering fractions on a number line.</p> <p>Using decimal numbers (tenths and hundredths)</p>	<p>Continue to learn times tables which will be set on Times Tables Rockstars every week.</p> <p>Continue to practise daily on www.topmarks.co.uk - number bonds, times table facts, division facts, etc.</p>
Science	<p>States of Matter</p> <p>Solids, liquids and gases, and the properties of each state.</p> <p>How certain materials move from one state to another.</p> <p>The water cycle.</p>	<p>Ask your child to tell you what the different states of matter are. Can they find examples of each one in your home? Look at the different states of water (i.e. ice, water and water vapour [observe boiling kettle, clouds, etc]). Ask them to explain to you what they see when they have a shower (condensation) and explain why this is there.</p>
Geography	<p>Climate and Biomes</p> <p>Why are jungles so wet and deserts so dry?</p> <p>Weather, climate graphs, how world location affects the type of climate a place has, how climate affects the type of plants and animals that live in a particular biome.</p> <p>(After February half term, we will be looking at deforestation and the effect this has on climate change, etc)</p>	<p>Talk about the weather.</p> <p>Watch the local and national weather forecasts, and discuss the movement of the clouds/weather systems, etc.</p> <p>Investigate different types of weather all around the world.</p> <p>Ask them to explain what a climate graph is.</p> <p>At the end of the half term, ask them if they know why jungles are so wet and deserts so dry.</p>



RE	Buddhism Is it possible for everyone to be happy? Could the Buddha's teaching make the world a better place?	Talk to your children about the difference between what makes us happy and true happiness.
Art	Henri Rousseau - Surprised! Tiger in a Tropical Storm Analysing the painting - what do we see, think and feel; creating our own art work using what we find out - using a mixture of mediums (e.g. painting, collage, printing, etc).	Talk about the painting and ask your child to point out its features. What do they like about it? What is not quite right about it? Ask them to tell you about the different layers of the painting and how they have created those layers in their own work.
Computing	We will be continuing work on coding. Online Safety - Online relationships and online bullying Effective Searching / Is it real? - using a search engine, how search engines work, assess whether the information is true and reliable, understanding the difference between fact and opinion	Children can develop their understanding on Purple Mash. Talk to your child about how to have fun but to keep safe online - how to be respectful to others and how to recognise when something uncomfortable is happening online and where to turn for help and support. [PLEASE NOTE - if you need any help or support with online safety, these websites are very useful: https://nationalonlinesafety.com/ https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/ https://www.norfolk.police.uk/advice/child-protection/wisekids-7-11-yrs/stay-safe https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/ https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/ There are many more!
French	La Famille - my family	Talk about your family tree so that the children have a clear idea of who everyone is and what they are to them (e.g. aunt, uncle, cousin, niece, nephew, etc.)
PE	Gymnastics and Dance	Keep active. Keep healthy by balancing screen and off-screen time.
PSHE	Belonging to a community and shared responsibility	Talk to your child about the different communities they belong to and the kinds of responsibilities they have within those communities

Homework

Weekly homework will still be to read 5 times a week (please record in reading journals) and learn any times tables set, and practise all tables, as much as possible, on Times Table Rock Stars.

Aylmerton

The residential trip to Aylmerton Field Study Centre will be taking place from 25th to 27th January. If you need a new Kit List, please let us know and we will be happy to find you another one.

Children who are NOT attending the residential, still need to come into school on those days. Work is being set for them to do and will form the basis for work after the visit.

Thank you for your continued support.

If you need any help or support with anything, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the Year 4 team.

Mrs A Balls and Mrs V King

(Y4 Teachers)





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