

Elizabeth Á Linney – Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school and to the first half term of Year 4! Mrs Butcher, Mrs Rahi, Miss Lomas and Mrs Millie are looking forward to all of the exciting things we have planned for the coming weeks. We understand it is a very strange time for everybody, but everything is in place to allow for the smoothest transition back into school for your children. Please be patient with us whilst we adjust to the many new regulations and routines to keep us all healthy and safe.

As you will be aware, Oriel's behaviour system across the school is themed 'Aim for the Stars!' Each class has a rocket displayed, onto which are the avatars your child was assigned last year. The avatars move up or down in accordance to the children's behaviour choices. 'Aim for the Stars!' reward time on a Friday afternoon will be the weekly reward for children whose avatars remain high up on the rocket, along with Marvellous Me notifications which the teachers will send home using the Marvellous Me app (see the School Office for details of your login/password if you have not already done so). Children will also earn plastic colour coded tokens for their house if good choices are made. Every 2 weeks there will be a winning house - look out for the clear plastic boxes around the school where the tokens will be collected and displayed!

### Curriculum

This half term we will be focusing on the No Limits Geography based topic 'Destination Europe!', in particular Rome. We will be making links across the curriculum and relating our learning to this theme.

Here is a list of our subjects for this half term:

**English** - We will be covering a number of different genres this term, including narratives such as 'The Raven of Rome' and also Information texts based on Europe.

It is essential that your child reads every day and that this is recorded and signed in their Reading Journal. When children finish their books, please write this in the comments so we know they need to choose another book. Children should aim to get their Reading Journals signed by a grown up at home at least four times a week. We are continuing with the same library system 'Accelerated Reader', this year, which enables your child to choose books with a ZPD level specific to their reading ability. We aim for your child to change their reading book at least once per week, but the children are encouraged to read additional books at home, if they finish their library books. Children should record the titles of these additional books, in their Reading Journals along with their opinions too!

**Spelling** - In line with the National Curriculum, the children in Year 4 will be covering the spelling lists for Years 3 & 4 in weekly spelling lessons. Lists of words to learn will be sent home on a Friday, to be learnt throughout the week. The children will then be tested on these words

the following Friday. It is very important that you encourage your child to practice their spellings to help develop and improve their reading and writing. The children do not need to be sat at a table for this to happen- get them to recite and spell out each word as you travel to school together, for example.

**Maths**- This half term we will focus on number. This includes: Place value of 4 digit numbers, ordering, rounding, estimating, addition and subtraction. Problem solving will be taught throughout all maths lessons; enabling the children to use and apply the skills learnt that week. The Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check is due to be carried

out this academic year for the first time in schools across the country. It is an online test with 25 questions. In order to best prepare the children for this test, we will be spending lots of time playing times table games and learning all of our tables, as the expectation by the end of Year 4 is that children know all of their tables up to 12 x 12. Children will be tested on their times tables each Thursday. This will indicate which tables they are more/less secure with and so which they need to work on. Please help us by encouraging your child to continue practising their tables at home- there are many online games available to help with this, Times Tables Rock Stars being a particularly good example.

#### **Science - States of Matter**

#### **PE - Developing personal skills and physical fitness**

Year 4's PE day is a **Tuesday**, so please make sure your child comes to school in their PE kit every Tuesday. Jogging bottoms and a jumper are ideal as the weather gets colder as we aim to do most of our lessons outdoors. These should still comply with the school's uniform policy (check the website for more information on this). Please make sure your child is not wearing any jewellery such as earrings or necklaces on PE days, long hair should also be tied up.

**PSHCE - Who are these people?** Understanding more about themselves and the various relationships they have with people in their lives.

#### **Art/ Design and technology - Cross curricular links with Geography and Science**

**Computing -** We will be focusing on e-safety with the children and using the iPads and Chromebooks to develop a range of keyboard and computing skills.

**Geography - Destination Europe!** The children will be doing a case study on Rome, comparing and contrasting it with their own local area. Your children were set a research homework over the break based on Rome- we are looking forward to seeing how they got on!

**Homework -** this will be set on a **Friday** to be handed in on the following **Wednesday**. Your child will be set a piece of My Maths homework, given a set of spellings (no need to return these, just encourage your child to practise them each day and also use them in sentences) and there will be a piece of English/Science/Topic homework sent home in Homework books too.

The children will be rewarded for good attendance. **Attendance is crucial for children to continue to make good progress this year. If your child is absent please ensure that you ring the school by 9.30 am to inform of the reason for absence. A note must also be written explaining your child's absence on their return to school.**

All children are expected to come to school in full uniform as this is reflective of their learning and attitude towards school. If a child has an item of uniform missing, they will receive a warning. If that item continues to be missing then the child will miss their playtime. Consistent failure to attend school without the correct uniform will result in referral to a member of the SLT.

We are always happy to speak to you if you have any concerns, questions or problems. Due to current guidelines, this will now need to take place in an email, or over the phone.

Many thanks for your support, we look forward to getting to know you all over the coming year!  
Mrs Butcher, Mrs Rahi, Miss Lomas and Mrs Millie