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| New crest logo colour | ***Twiss Green Community Primary School***  ***TG logo blue*** |
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Dear Parents, September 2019

It's hard to believe, but it's that time of the year again - the beginning of a new school year. Welcome back. We hope that you have enjoyed the summer and are ready for an exciting autumn term in Year 4. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about what we will be learning in school this term and about day-to-day routines.

**Homework**

Homework will be set on a Friday and is due back in the following Friday. Throughout school we run a two-folder homework system so that there is enough time for marking. One week children will take home Maths and spellings, and the following Friday they will take a different coloured folder, again with a piece of Maths and English/Themed work and an activity to continue practising spellings. Your child will know which ‘times tables’ they need to be practising, and they record this at the front of their homework folder on a chart. **Please note; passwords for any online homework are on a sheet in your child’s reading journal.**

**Spelling homework**

Spelling lists will be set on a fortnightly basis. This is best practised in short bursts over the two weeks. We test the children by asking them to fill in missing words from sentences, so it would be really helpful if you could help your child by reading their spellings to them in the context of a sentence. We ask children to identify their best handwriting whilst practising their spellings and to ensure an adult checks and signs the sheet for them. ‘Times table’ tests will take place on a Monday morning and spelling tests will take place every other Friday.

As well as this, we will be encouraging the children to read as much as possible, bringing a reading book home each night, along with a reading journal, in which they can record their thoughts about the book they are reading. Please write in their journals too - we would welcome any comments from you. **These should both be brought into school daily as we will also be using them every day in school.**

This sounds a lot, but hopefully we should all get into a routine fairly quickly. We realise that children have lives out of school, and understand that homework is sometimes difficult to fit in, which is why the children have several days, including the weekend to complete everything. If they are having difficulty fitting it all in please let us know.

A last word on homework: We want the children to complete it as independently as possible, but would like you to have a look before it is returned to school. Help may be given, and if it is, it is useful if you make a note of this on the bottom of the piece of work. Please feel free to comment upon how your child has managed with their homework, especially if any difficulties have arisen.

Coverage of the curriculum this term is on the reverse of this letter, and we hope that this information is helpful. Please feel free to contact us if there are any matters or concerns relating to your child that you wish to discuss. We look forward to working with you and your children in a busy and exciting first term back.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Sinclair and Miss. Roberts

**Topics in Year 4 Autumn Term**

As you are already aware, rather than teach separate subjects, as a whole school we teach a skills-based curriculum in which skills are delivered through different themes. During this term our main theme is ‘Ancient Greek Heroes’ and our science topics are the study of animals including humans and our electricity topic ‘Christmas Lights’. Our geography, art and design technology work is all linked to these themes.

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| **Subject** | **Learning** | **What can be done at home, or brought to school** | **Key vocabulary** |
| Themed work | ‘Ancient Greek Heroes’. We will be learning about the lives of the Ancient Greeks and what they did for us; their legacies. | Look at the geography of Greece now. Do you have any books/photos we could look at? | Myths and legends, democracy, civilisation. |
| English | We will study Ancient Greek myths and legends and write our own myth. We will also be learning about Haiku poetry at harvest time and how persuasion is used in adverts, especially around Christmas time. | Regular reading to improve fluency and vocabulary. Learn fortnightly spelling lists and the common usage of words. Practise handwriting in the school style. | Help children to learn spellings. |
| Mathematics | The children will be practising both their mental and written calculation strategies and will be learning to recall their times tables facts at speed. We will be further extending the children’s knowledge of place value and number, using Roman numerals, understanding negative numbers and measuring length and perimeter. | Learning times tables with instant recall is an important focus in Year 4 and learning the related division facts also. Many games on the internet help children practise these skills and also MyMaths has a good section on learning table facts. | Digit, value, words associated with addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, negative. |
| Science | Through our themes the children will be learning about animals and humans (including bones and muscles) and electricity. |  | Skeleton, endoskeleton, exoskeleton, hydrostatic skeleton, invertebrate, vertebrate.  Muscle, pairs, contract, relax, voluntary, involuntary. |
| R.E | Our key question this year is: ‘How should we live our lives?’ We will explore this question in relation to Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Judaism. This term we will be linking this to Christmas and Christianity. |  |  |
| Art and D&T | Art: Drawing- the Elgin marbles and Ancient Greek architecture and digital Christmas calendars. D&T: Rudolph sleigh |  |  |
| IT & Computing | In addition to using IT across the curriculum (e.g. create different graphs using excel), the children will learn how to create their own homepage on the school’s Learning Platform. | Ask your child to guide you round the school website when they log in. Ask them questions about their homepage. |  |
| PE | Dance, Games, and Gym lessons will take place on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Outdoor kits will be needed on Wednesdays when Mr. Dow will be taking the lesson, but please have outside trainers in school on all of these days for our ‘Daily Mile’ | Be active! |  |
| MFL | Spanish will be taught by Miss Browne, linking to our themes. | Ask the children about their Spanish words and phrases. |  |
| PSHEE | The children will be discussing feelings and behaviour through our work on ‘New beginnings’, ‘Getting on and falling out’ and ‘Say no to bullying’. We will also be discussing money matters and learning about simple first aid techniques. | Discuss feelings at the start of the year, empathising with others and understanding one’s own behavioural patterns. |  |