



Decoy Community Primary School And First Steps Nursery

Deer Park Road, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 1DH

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Headteacher: Mrs Heather Poustie

admin@decoyschool.co.uk

Friday 11th March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please find below the information that you will need for this term in Year 4. We hope that it is useful, but do please get in touch if you need any other information.

Curriculum – Our school website contains details of our whole school curriculum. In addition, please find a list below of topics being covered in Year 4 this Spring Term.

Our theme for this half-term is World War II - in particular looking at its effect on family life.

- PSHE – Dreams and Goals. Healthy Me
- Art – We are looking at the work of the World War Two artist Evelyn Dunbar
- Computing – Using Garageband and looking at blogs
- Design and Technology – making a night light
- English – We will be looking at information, newspaper report and diary writing
- Geography – A visit to modern Greece
- History – The role of women and how their lives changed during WWII
- Mathematics – Multiplication, division, fractions and decimals
- Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish) – My home and habitats
- Music – Singing, chime bar playing and improvisation
- Religious Education – Being a Hindu in Britain today & Christianity
- Physical Education – Ball and bat skills as well as fitness and gymnastics
- Science – Electricity & the digestive system

Reading – in Year 4, the books that your children are reading usually come from the library as part of our Accelerated Reader scheme. We encourage you to discuss and question your child on their reading book; this will help them when they come to quiz. Obviously, the comprehension of the text is very important and a child cannot move onto the next level of books until their understanding is secure. Accelerated Reader (AR) quizzes can be taken at home but it is vital that children take these quizzes independently without adult support. Children's usernames and passwords will be written into the front of the reading record. The website for taking quizzes can be found at: <https://ukhosted51.renlearn.co.uk/2236651/default.aspx> and this can also be found on our Google Classroom.



Children should record which page they have read up to in their reading record and make a quick comment. We recommend that children try and read for at least ten minutes, at least once a day. If your child takes a quiz, this should also be recorded, along with their score. Please can an adult at home sign the reading record comments **four times a week** in order to evidence that your child has read. Helping our children to become fluent readers is perhaps THE most important thing we can do for them. Reading books and records need to be in school every day; we will check and sign reading records every **Wednesday** to make sure that children are keeping up with their reading.

Homework – we will give homework once a week on a Friday and collect books back in by the following Tuesday. We will usually set topic-related homework. Children should also spend 20 minutes on their Sparx activities for the week. This is important in the coming months as we have the statutory 'Times Table Check' in June. We will mark homework with ticks and a brief comment, and if there are any issues, we will talk to children about these at school. We do expect the children to present their work neatly to the standard they know is expected in their school books.

PE – our PE days are on Mondays and Tuesdays and on these days, the children should come into school in their PE kits.

Snacks – we would like to continue to have your support to promote healthy snacks at break time. **Please avoid sending in crisps, biscuits and chocolate bars, or anything containing nuts,** and instead **encourage the children to eat a piece of fruit, a cereal bar or breadsticks, for example.**

Labelling – please may we kindly ask that all jumpers, coats, drinks bottles and packed lunch boxes are labelled with your child's name. As we are sure you will appreciate, finding and returning un-named lost property to children can be time consuming. It is also frustrating for parents/carers when items are lost.

Emails – If you need to speak with us, we are available at 3:30pm when the children are collected. If this is not possible, our emails are:

nbaker@decoyschool.co.uk

rlawton@decoyschool.co.uk

Please be aware that it is school policy that there is no expectation for staff to respond to emails outside of their working hours.

Both Mrs Lawton (Mallards) and Mrs Baker (Kingfishers) work Monday - Friday

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs R Lawton and Miss N Baker

Year 4 Class Teachers