



Gusford Primary School

"Promoting Achievement and Success."

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Headteacher : Mrs C Claydon

12 September 2017

Dear Parent /Carer,

Welcome to Years 3 & 4! We thought it might be useful, at this stage of the new term, to provide you with some information on how things will be organised in Years 3 and 4, and provide an outline of some of the things the children will be learning during this term. This information will be elaborated upon at a meeting on Friday 22nd September 2017 at 9.00am-9.30am in the library.

Curriculum Overview: What are we doing in Years 3 and 4?

The curriculum overview gives a brief outline of the main things that your child will be learning in each subject over the next half term. A new one of these will be sent home each term.

Grouping of pupils

As you may know, the school introduced the 'Read, Write, Inc' phonics scheme last year. Some pupils in the year group will continue this program whilst the remainder will be taught English in groups with differentiation dependent upon ability which include spelling, grammar and punctuation. It is expected that many of the pupils currently on the 'Read, Write, Inc' scheme will move away from this during the course of the year and join the established English groups. English lessons will be taught alongside this in classes. Maths will be taught in ability groups. Occasionally small groups of pupils may be withdrawn for more focused input – this may be the very able pupils as well as those who need additional reinforcement in certain concepts.

Reading

Children will participate in reading activities within their class group every day, but only those pupils with special needs, or those who need a boost, will be heard regularly on an independent basis (although we do monitor and encourage personal reading for all pupils). To extend their ability to reflect on what is read, Year 3 & 4 pupils are expected to keep a reading journal in which they keep a record of what they have read and their responses to this. In line with the new 'Reading Policy' we expect pupils to read at home for 50 - 60 minutes per week (this may be in a block or small amounts each day). To support us with this, we ask parents/carers to sign the journal to acknowledge that the child has read the required amount that week (pupils' journals will be checked by the teachers weekly). Each box is for 10 minutes and the final box for the weekend (one page per week). Please could you total up the number of minutes read in a week.

Each term two pupils from each class are awarded a reading prize for effort and achievement. Although many pupils are proficient readers by this age it is, nevertheless, it is crucial that they continue to read as much as possible and challenge themselves with their reading material. We would be very grateful if you could continue to support your child with their reading – this may not necessarily be 'hearing them read' in the traditional sense, but questioning them and discussing the text. Merits and rewards will be given to encourage and support this.

Spellings

Spelling is an integral part of the 'Read, Write, Inc' scheme so pupils working on the scheme will receive spelling input on a daily basis. For those pupils working in English groups, spelling will be taught regularly. Pupils will be working on a particular rule or strategy throughout the week.



The *Active Learning* Trust



The New Curriculum

The new national curriculum was introduced in September 2014 . The staff at Gusford have put a huge amount of work into developing this to provide a stimulating, progressive curriculum for your children. The biggest change, as far as the children are concerned, is that subjects, which may previously have been taught each week, will be blocked into units. The over-riding emphasis is on developing **skills** across the key stages and the whole school will be following a similar theme/skill at the same time.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

All Year 3 and 4 children who are currently on the SEN register will be working on individual targets set out on their IEPs (Individual Education Plan). Progress against these targets will be assessed and feedback will be given to parents at open evenings. Additional support will be provided where necessary, either in class or in small group sessions. Please contact your child's class teacher or either of the Special Needs Coordinator (Mrs. Hook) if you have any concerns.

Homework

In line with the new 'Homework Policy', Year 3 and 4 are expected to focus on their reading but may, occasionally, be set a special project to do at home. Details of the homework projects for the year will be sent home before the end of the Autumn half term.

Assessment

Both year groups are regularly assessed and will sometimes take tests to formally monitor progress. It is important to note that class teachers will also make their own assessments based on each child's performance over the year. Whilst the school recognizes the importance of the tests, we do not wish them to be a source of stress for the children.

P.E

P.E. will take place twice a week, usually one indoor session and one outdoor session. The children will have the opportunity to do swimming during the Summer term.

The usual school guidelines for swimming kit apply. Girls are not allowed to wear bikinis and boys must wear tight fitting swimming trunks or shorts. If your child has to wear goggles, the class teacher must receive a letter from the doctor otherwise permission will be not given.

All children **must** have their P.E clothes in school on P.E. days. P.E is a very important part of the school curriculum. Children should also have trainers in school so that P.E lessons may take place outside if the weather is fine. Long hair should be tied back and earrings removed (if your child has only recently had their ears pierced they will need to bring in some medical tape to cover them with). Please ensure that all P.E. kit (and school uniform) is clearly named.

P.E. times are as follows:

	Autumn 1
3S	Outdoor PE Tuesday Indoor PE Thursday
3EW	Outdoor PE Tuesday Indoor PE Thursday
3W	Outdoor PE Tuesday Indoor PE Thursday
4H	Outdoor PE Monday Indoor PE Friday
4M	Outdoor PE Monday Indoor PE Friday
4K	Outdoor PE Monday Indoor PE Friday

Rewards

At Gusford we aim to encourage positive attitudes and behaviour – we have a range of rewards for pupils who work hard and behave well. For effort and attainment in lessons we operate 'The Knights' merit system to motivate pupils both individually and as a team. Pupils also receive 'Lottery Tickets' to reward good manners, helpfulness and generally being model pupils. At the end of each term we have a 'Celebration Assembly' where certificates and prizes are distributed to pupils for a range of achievements.

New Behaviour System

The children will be following a slightly different behavior and consequences initiative, which has been launched throughout the school from September. The children follow a traffic light coloured system where all children start on green and are then moved to yellow/orange or red for poor behaviour choices. Consequences will be given according to the behaviour and if your child is moved to red you will be informed. This system however also recognizes those children that display positive learning behaviour and they are moved to gold to acknowledge this. Every week all of the children that have not been on red will receive golden time for 20 minutes. However if a child is on a separate behaviour monitoring system they will not be included in the class golden time. We welcome your support in encouraging good behaviour from the pupils – should we have serious concerns we will of course contact you, but please feel free to make an appointment to discuss any concerns which you may have.

Year 3 and 4 Events

Parental help on school visits is very much appreciated. If you are interested in helping, either in school or on school visits, please contact the office to arrange a DBS check if you have not already done so.

We will put any relevant information throughout the year on the Gusford website on the relevant pages of www.gusford.suffolk.sch.uk. Please sign and return the slip below to indicate whether or not you can attend the meeting.

Yours faithfully

Year 3 and 4 Staff

<u>Year 3 & 4 Parents' Meeting</u>	
On Friday 22nd September 2017 at 9.00 am-9.30 am in the library.	
Name of Child	Class
I am able/unable to attend the meeting (please delete as applicable)	
Signature of Parent/Carer	