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Dear Parents/ Carers,

What an emotional few weeks we have had as a country! Despite that, we have had a great few weeks back and the children have settled in really well. The swimming on Friday afternoons has been particularly popular with the children and this will continue next week. We will keep parents updated of the swimming timetable.

We are very excited about the year ahead and look forward to helping your child develop academically, socially and emotionally. We will, of course, have lots of fun along the way! All lessons are planned and taught by Mrs Ofori and Mrs Davies. On Wednesdays, the classes are covered by Miss Sharma and Mr James in the mornings and Miss Sharma stays in 4D all afternoon. Please read through this letter for further information regarding Year 4 expectations, routines and learning.

### **Year 4 Multiplication Timetables Check**

In year 4, your child will be required to take part in the year 4 multiplication times tables check (MTC). Please be assured that in due time, information regarding this will be passed onto to parents and opportunities will be provided for you to ask questions and we will answer any questions you may have. In the meantime, we want to give the children a fighting chance of doing their best, so we want them to start revision for this as soon as possible. We recommend that all children practise their times tables on Times Tables Rockstars for at least 30 minutes a day. If your child is identified as having particular weakness in times tables, you will be contacted by their class teacher with help and support for them at home.

### **Year 4 Learning Expectations**

In Year 4, your child has been provided with a home learning book to complete all relevant home learning tasks. Please may we request that children do their best to complete the homework to the highest standard and return their book to be marked weekly. Children will receive Mathematics and English homework on a Friday and will be expected to hand their book back in on a Wednesday. Children will also receive weekly spellings on a Friday in their homework books and will be tested on these on the following Thursday. In the past, children have written on the front of their homework books and used different ink colours. We would ask children to respect their books and ensure their presentation is the best(including homework books) so please remind your child to treat their homework books as they would their usual school books.

Could we please ask for your usual co-operation to encourage your child to do some form of learning at home every day in addition to their daily reading? This could be as simple as playing Timetables Rockstars, doing sums or accessing BBC bitesize to read about their current topics in school.



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## Reading

Developing a love for reading is the most precious gift we can give children, and it is expected that all children read for about 30 minutes each day outside of school. Staff in school will be spending some time hearing individual readers during our whole class group reading lessons and constantly checking to ensure children are reading regularly. Children will be rewarded for their effort. The children have taken part in a STAR reading test to help baseline their reading ability. They have been provided with a reading record which should be completed frequently and expected in school every day for regular monitoring. Please may I ask that you support in encouraging your child to read at home and hearing them read or reading with them at least once a week. Remember – reading is reading; if your child reads a sports section of a newspaper with a certain level of interest, then this is far more beneficial than pretending to read a book! Please also remember that whatever your child's reading ability, there is so much to be gained from spending time reading with your child and discussing books. Children who have been identified as having a reading age below their actual age will be supported to make accelerated progress in school through one-to-one reading interventions with adults in school. If you have any concerns or difficulties over home reading, please talk to us so we can help support with this.

## Handwriting

During these first weeks, we have identified that while some of this year's cohort have beautiful, legible, joined handwriting, majority of the children need further support to form their letters and numbers the correct way while others need support to join correctly using the Nelson handwriting style. We are putting measures and lessons in place to improve handwriting but as usual, we count on your continuous support in this area. You can help by encouraging your help to produce every piece of writing using correct and legible formation in the first instance before joining their writing.

We look forward to meeting and working closely with you to support the development for your child.

Mrs. Ofori and Mrs. Davies

