

WESTERN ROAD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
Southover High Street
Lewes
East Sussex BN7 1JB



Telephone: 01273 473013
Fax: 01273 470233

Email: office@westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk
www: <http://www.westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk>

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first term of Year 4. I hope that you had an exciting and relaxing summer.

Our topic for Term 1 is Incredible Inventions in which we will learn about some of the inventions of The Ancient Maya. This is a topic which will allow the children to explore the origins of many Maya inventions such as chocolate, calendars and advances in their understanding of astronomy, while finding out about when, where and how the Ancient Maya lived.

In English, we will read 'The Great Kapok Tree' – a book about a tree that was sacred to the Maya. We will use it to learn persuasive writing techniques by writing letters to stop people cutting down the special tree. We will also explore the theme of deforestation and the importance of preserving the rainforests. We will learn about Maya folklore by reading a Maya folktale about how chocolate was discovered. We will explore narrative poetry using the poem 'Chocolate Cake' by Michael Rosen. In Whole Class Reading, we will read 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl. If the children have a copy at home, it would be great if they could bring it in for these lessons.

In maths, we are starting the year by exploring number and place value. This will include 4-digit numbers and the introduction of 'thousands' as another place value. We will be looking at the number line up to 10,000 as well as introducing rounding to the nearest 10 and 100. We are also preparing for the statutory Year 4 Multiplication Check, which will take place in June, and our focus this term will be on the 3x, 6x, 12x and 4x tables. Please visit <https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/> for more information.

Our science this term is all about states of matter. We will be exploring how objects change state when heated or cooled. During this unit, we will find out about the process of evaporation and what role it plays in the water cycle.

In PSHE this term, we will be learning about friendships. This unit involves exploring what respect is, how to resolve conflicts with our friends and unpicking what bullying is and what to do if we see bullying in our school. These lessons will mostly revolve around talking about our own feelings and exploring scenarios. In RE this term, we are exploring Christianity and looking at the concept of Trinity. This involves looking at Christian baptism. In Computing, we will use Scratch to code a game. In DT, we will use the architecture of the Maya to inspire us to build structures and in Art, we will use collage to make Maya masks. Our topic for French this term is All Around Town, where we will learn to count in tens to hundred and say where we live. We are delighted to be able to take part in the Brass Band project in our music lessons this term (please see the separate letter that has been shared about this). These sessions will take place on Thursday afternoons.

We have PE this term on Mondays, where the focus is dance, and Fridays, where we will develop our fitness and the fundamental skills of balancing, running, jumping, hopping and skipping.

For homework this term we will be setting a 4-week project. The expectation is that the project is built up over the 4 weeks, spending around 20 minutes a week on it. This will be alongside Mymaths homework which will be set weekly and spellings. Our spellings will be introduced and practised in class each week and a list sent home on Tuesdays to allow the children to continue practicing these at home. There is no spelling test.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to see us.

Yours sincerely,
Ms Margie Krijnauw and Mrs Alice Bracher
Year Four Class Teachers

Headteacher: Irena Wooler
head@westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk

Deputy Headteacher: Rea Hamilton
reahamilton@westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk