

# YEAR 4 NEWSLETTER

January 2016

**Welcome back! We hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday. The children have settled in well to the new term and are working hard on their learning.**

## World War II

This half term we are travelling back in time to work for Winston Churchill and we are becoming experts in World War 2. For our first commission we applied for a position within the MOWPS (Ministry of War Problem Solvers) by writing a formal letter to Mr Churchill explaining how our critical thinking, communication, organisational and design skills make us ideal for the job. We have also enjoyed learning from a very special visitor, Doris Dinsdale, who has been shared her knowledge and insight of WW2, and showed us some artefacts from that era.



## Targets

The children have been given their Reading, Writing and Maths targets for this half term. You can help them at home by:-

**Reading** - Encourage regular reading at home and share examples of poetry. Identify and discuss features of various poems—e.g. layout, vocabulary, similes and rhyming.

**Writing:** When reading, identify the conjunctions (joining words such as and, but, so, and, if, when, because, however, therefore, although) and practice writing them in sentences.

**Numeracy:** Practice rounding numbers (such as prices in shops) to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000.

## Homework

A reminder for homework: One

WW2 task from the grid must be chosen each week. This allows the children to have ownership over their learning at home and is the same system we used for the Egyptian MoE in the autumn term, which resulted in some fantastic pieces of work.

Children will be tested on their spellings every Friday and we encourage them to read three times a week (at least) to receive a certificate. Children are able to visit the school library each week where they can choose one book to borrow and take home.



## P.E.

Outdoor P.E. (netball) is every Tuesday and indoor P.E. (gymnastics) takes place every Thursday. Please ensure the correct kits are in school.

## Dates for your Diary!

26th January: Outdoor learning day—please wear suitable outdoor clothing

1st February: Year 4 Cross Country



## Thunks

In Key Stage 2 we are introducing 'thunks', which are simple looking questions to get you thinking and questioning. We will discuss the monthly thunk in class and add it to the newsletter for you to share at home and discuss ideas.

Our first monthly thunk is...

*Can you be happy and sad at the same time?*

When giving the thunk some thought, try answering these questions:

\*What do you think?

\*Why do you think it?

\*Can you give an example?

When you have a response to the thunk, please add it to the thunk board in the corridor.

We look forward to reading and sharing your ideas!

## Keeping Safe

Keeping children safe is our main priority here at Oak Hill and we would like to share ways with you on how to keep the children safe whilst using the internet at home. The internet is an extremely valuable tool for learning but we need to be aware of their safety whilst using this resource.

The children are encouraged to choose the child friendly search engine Kid Rex to gain access to new information. This is a website designed by google which has integrated filters to ensure that the children have access to appropriate content whilst using the internet.

Here is the website address for you to have a look at:

<http://www.kidrex.org/>