Dear Parents / Guardians,

Welcome to the spring term. We hope you had a great Christmas and an enjoyable New Year. Thank you for all your support last term.

**Routines:**

In order to alleviate congestion in the mornings, children in year 4 must enter school via the swimming pool gate from the Jubliee Playground. This has worked well during the autumn term. Due to safeguarding, parents wishing to come into school in the morning are only able to do so via the main reception in order to be officially signed in. We understand that often parents wish to speak to their child’s teacher and you are very welcome to do so after school.

**Year 4 Curriculum:**

The topics we will be studying during the Spring term are:

**Science:**  States of Matter and Electricity

**RE:** Hinduism

**Music:**  Recorders

**French:** Taught by Mrs Burton

**Geography:** Rivers and the Water Cycle

**History:** Crime and Punishment

**DT:** Moving Posters

**Art:** Famous Buildings

**Computing:** Computer Science and Internet Safety

**PE:** Hockey and Dance

**PHSE:** Jigsaw – Dreams and Goals and Healthy Me

**Home Learning:**

From January, there will be a significant change to the home learning structure. At the start of each half term, the children will be given a grid containing a broad range of tasks spanning a number of subject areas. The children will choose at least six home learning tasks to complete by the end of each half term.

Reading is of utmost importance and should be a priority for home learning. We expect the children to read aloud to an adult for 10-15 minutes at least 5 times a week in order to develop their fluency, give you the opportunity to explain the meaning of new words and to check their understanding through questioning. We strongly recommend that you read to them as much as possible, preferably from a book that they would not necessarily choose or be able to read themselves, to develop their understanding and overall enjoyment of reading. Reading to your child has a huge impact on their progress.

We will continue to introduce a new spelling rule every Monday in school and practise it throughout the week. This term we will begin to go paperless by setting these weekly spellings on Spelling Shed. Initially, spellings will continue to be sent home on paper although this will be phased out after half term. These weekly spelling will continue to be tested on a Friday.

Times Table Rockstars will continue to be accessible at all times and MyMaths will be used where appropriate to support children’s learning; any tasks set will be linked to the children’s learning from that week.

**Further Information:**

**Book Talk:** This week we have introduced ‘Book Talk’ with the children. Each week on a Monday one child from each class will discuss a favourite book, author or text of interest (this could also include a magazine, annual or comic etc) with the rest of the year group. As reading is a particular focus this year, we are really looking forward to hearing about the types of texts that engage the children in year 4; hopefully this will further encourage and inspire the children’s love of reading.

Our PE days will remain the same as last term, taking place on Tuesday and Wednesday. However, please ensure your child’s PE kit is in school every day. Now that the weather is colder, your child should have some warm clothing (tracksuit or similar) in their PE bags for outside games sessions. Please ensure your child has a white T-shirt and shorts for indoor PE to allow for greater flexibility. It is essential that ALL PE kit is clearly named to avoid confusion.

Dates of upcoming events in school, useful websites, e-safety information and photos of the children learning can be found on the school website [www.elburtonschool.com](http://www.elburtonschool.com).

We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead with new topics and challenges.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs S Bates Mr Griggs

Class 4SB Class 4SG