

21.01.2009

Dear Parents

Welcome to Grade 4. Here is some useful information to assist you in helping your child to adjust and cope in Grade 4.

THEMES & MODULES:

During each term we will cover a variety of themes in the 8 Learning areas. To avoid confusion with all the various learning areas, and to create continuity in each theme, we will work on a module each day until it is complete. This means that if we are working on a Social Science module, we may have Social Science every day for 2 -3 weeks but then not again for the rest of the term.

Below are lists of themes and the module booklets that your child will receive throughout the year. At the end of each module, a test will be set. We will summarise what needs to be learnt and this will be placed in the Study booklet. During the term all modules are to be kept in the CONCERTINA FILE. At the end of each term, we will place the modules in the Module flip file.

Modules will also be given each term for MATHEMATICS.

The MATHEMATICS modules will include: NUMBER CONCEPTS, ADDITION, SUBTRACTION, MULTIPLICATION, DIVISION, SHAPE, MEASUREMENT, FRACTIONS and MONEY.

THEMES FOR THE YEAR

TERM 1

PEOPLE (Me, family & friends, famous people)

English

Life O (Life skills booklet)

DISCOVERING OUR PAST

Social Science

HOUSES & HOME

English

EMS

DESIGN TECH

ANIMALS / PETS

Natural Science Research project

English

TERM 3

WHERE WE LIVE

Social Science

WEATHER

English

NS & Design Tech

GOING INTO BUSINESS (Market Day)

EMS

COLOUR

English

ROAD SAFETY

LO

TERM 2

BREAKFAST

Integrated (English, Design Tech, EMS, LO, SS)

SHOPPING

EMS

GARDENS

NS (Plants)

IN THE KITCHEN

Integrated (LO, Design Tech, SS)

OUR OCEANS & FISHING

SS

English

TERM 4

TIME

English, Maths & Design Tech

HEAT & ENERGY

NS & Design Tech

MONEY & BANKING

EMS

OUR COUNTRY & HERITAGE SITES

SS

SYSTEMS OF THE BODY

LO

ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

If your child is absent, please write a note in the homework diary giving the reason for their absenteeism. I will send a note home when your child returns, informing you of the work that has been missed. It is your child's responsibility to catch up that work. If your child is away for an extended period of time, please collect work from me. If your child misses any lesson due to being out of class for music, he/she needs to take responsibility for catching up any work that has been missed.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

If your child is not able to do Physical Education for a particular reason, a note must accompany them to school. PLEASE WRITE ALL NOTES IN THE HOMEWORK DIARY. If your child fails to do this, he/she will receive a warning slip. Friday detention will be given if your child fails to bring a note for a second time. Physical Education will take place every THURSDAY for Grade 4P. Your child must come to school dressed in his/her Phys Ed clothes or tracksuit on that day.

HOMEWORK

Your child will receive homework every day other than Fridays. Homework may consist of preparing for spelling and spel tests by writing out the words, revising Math's Tables and work done in class, completing work that has not been completed in class and completing set tasks given in the content subjects or projects.

Homework should take no longer than 45 minutes to complete (excluding studying for tests). If a test is scheduled, your child will be notified of this at least one week prior to the test. The work that the test will cover, will be outlined for you and broken up into manageable sections for your child to study everyday.

If for any reason your child is unable to complete his/her homework, please notify me that you are aware that the homework is not complete and that you will see that this is done the follow day. Pupils who do not bring a note will be punished by missing break to complete the work.

The first homework letter will go out on Monday.

SCHOOL DIARY

The task of writing down homework correctly and packing the correct books, is often a difficult task for the new Grade 4 pupils. In order to assist you in trying to decipher your child's homework, I will, once a week, send home a detailed description of the homework required for the week. This letter will be pasted in the diary. Please sign the homework book everyday.

The school diary can also be used more as a message book where I may record notes to you. You must please use this book to write notes or make appointments with me.

A list of books required for homework will be written on the homework board. This will hopefully help your child to become more organised and to ensure that all the necessary books are taken home. Please help your child to keep his/her school bag organised and remind him/her to pack all books/modules back into his/her bag once homework has been completed. Please also see that he/she has a quiet working area at home in which to do homework.

STUDY BOOK

This is the most important exercise book your child will have. In it, will be summaries, lists, mind maps etc of all the work that will be assessed for tests and exams for all the various subjects.

BELONGINGS/STATIONERY

Please see that all your child's clothing and stationery are clearly marked with their name. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In order to acknowledge your child's progress or achievements, I give out certificates regularly either in class or at assembly. Each child will also have a Performance chart where I will record good work or participation which needs to be acknowledged. In the class, there is a Behaviour and Good participation chart where points can be earned (with privileges). Points can also be lost and this may mean Friday detention if more than 10 points are lost.

PUNISHMENT

A note will be sent home if your child produces poor work or results or is badly behaved on a particular day. These notes will be pasted into the homework diary and must be signed by you. If there is any further punishment to be given, it will be recorded on the note. A warning slip is sent home before Friday detention is given.

BIRTHDAYS

If your child has a birthday and you wish to send eats to school, you are welcome to do so but may I please request that you do not send cakes to school which have to be cut. Your child is allowed to come to school in civvies on his/her birthday or close to the birthday, should the birthday fall on a weekend or holiday.

HEALTHY EATING

Your child will be required to concentrate much more in Grade 4 than was required of them in the Foundation Phase. In order to do this, I believe that their mental and physical energy levels need to be properly refueled. In other words, they need to eat healthy food. On very hot summer days, I do allow pupils to drink water regularly in class. They can either use the cup provided at the basin or they may keep water in a plastic juice bottle (preferably with a spout).

TEXT BOOKS

Please see that all text books are covered in plastic and clearly marked with your child's name.

EXERCISE BOOKS

All the exercise books must be covered in plastic. PLEASE NOTE: Your child will be given a cover page (which they will colour in) for most of these books. These cover pages will be all be handed out by Thursday.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE ENCLOSED BOOKLIST CAREFULLY and try to cover your child's books as soon as possible. Thank you.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

During the year your child will be required to purchase certain items for Design Tech tasks. Items include: knitting needles, a ball of wool, pins and a needle, a dowel

stick etc. It is a good idea to start collecting bits and pieces of different materials which can be used, like scraps of material, cork, buttons etc. Having a collection of decorative crafts like stars or glitter will also come in use.

I look forward to teaching your child. Please feel free to make an appointment if you encounter any queries or concerns throughout the year.

Kind regards

Cathy Paquet

Sharon van Vuren
PRINCIPAL