Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year, we hope you all had a lovely holiday. It’s great to see how enthused and excited the children are about their topic already. As I’m sure you all know, our topic this term is Sparks, Rhythm and Robots. Year 4 will learn about electricity, sound and robots. We can’t wait to see the fantastic work they will produce.

This topic has a scientific focus, the children will find out how to construct simple circuits and draw them. We will explore what happens to a bulb’s brightness when circuits are changed. We will also investigate which materials are the best electrical conductors and use this information to make switches and wire plugs. We are very fortunate that the Science Museum has a new Robots Exhibition starting in February which we are going to visit, as well as watching 3D Robots at the IMAX cinema, we know that this is really going to enhance the children’s learning. After half term we will be focusing on sound. We will show that sounds are made when objects vibrate and that sounds travel through solids, liquids and gases. The children will investigate how well sound travels through different materials and discover how instruments make sounds.

The children have made a great start to our topic by beginning to design their own Eric Joyner inspired robots. This artwork will continue to develop and evolve as the weeks progress. We will also be looking at another robot artist Karl Egenberger, as well as creating their own robots in Design Technology. In history, the children will also look at how toys have changed since 1900, with a particular focus on robots. In English there will be a focus on The Iron Man by Ted Hughes. We will also be creating texts that will show the history and impact electricity and robots have had on our lives.

In maths, we will continue to follow the National Curriculum, focussing on the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) as well as looking at place value, shape, measures, fractions and decimals.

We are very fortunate to have Karen Coulter working with us for the first half term. Karen is a Teach First student and will be increasing her teaching commitment over the next few weeks. Whilst she is teaching, one of us will always be in class supporting Karen and working with groups. The children already know her very well and we know will benefit from extra adult support during this time.

This term the class will also continue with the weekly Philosophy sessions with Miriam Cohen on a Wednesday. Lynley will also join us on a Tuesday afternoon to continue teaching recorders, as well as teaching singing on a Friday morning.

This term and next, the children will have swimming lessons every Thursday morning, starting this week, at The Royal Free Swimming Pool. Please ensure the children bring their swimming kit – costume/trunks, towel and a hat, to school every Thursday. We will also have a class P.E. session on Wednesday which will continue to be led Coach Keyleigh. The children will need to bring a P.E. kit of shorts, leggings or jogging bottoms, t-shirt and trainers or pumps. They can also bring in a labelled water bottle which they can refill each day. To keep energy levels up, it’s also a good idea to send your child to school each day with a piece of fruit to eat at break.
We have already been impressed by the enthusiasm for all aspects of home learning in the class. However, it is essential that all children bring their **Home Learning Journals to school every Wednesday**, so they can be checked and are ready for the new home learning to be stuck in.

Ways in which you can continue to support your child at home with their learning are:

| English | **Punctuation:** It is important that the children can now use basic punctuation accurately and consistently (full stops, capital letters and question marks) and aim to use a wider range (commas, apostrophes and speech marks). Please check their handwriting is neatly joined as well.  
**Reading:** The children must be reading every night at home, ideally for a minimum of 15 minutes. Reading does really support writing and help to expand their vocabulary and range of ideas. It would also be very helpful if you could discuss the characters, plots and language used in the books your child is reading. **Also please can you continue to write the date, pages and initial your child’s diary every time they read.**  
**Spelling:** Test your child on their spellings a few times every week and go over previously learnt ones regularly. |
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| Maths | **Mental maths:** Please continue to support your child in learning and practising their times tables. We will continue to give each child a times table to focus on for a weekly test.  
**Telling the time:** Just like times tables, telling the time helps to build confidence in maths and is also very useful. Ask your child when their favourite TV show starts, how long it lasts or how long they have until bed-time.  
**Money:** Money is a great way to practise addition and subtraction. When shopping, ask your child to work out how much two items will cost, or how much change you will get. |

**Important dates:**
Friday 27\(^{th}\) January – October Gallery  
Monday 13\(^{th}\) to Friday 17\(^{th}\) February – Half Term  
Monday 20\(^{th}\) February – Science Museum  
Thursday 2\(^{nd}\) March – Year 4 Class Tea  
Friday 3\(^{rd}\) March – Year 4 Class Assembly  
Monday 6\(^{th}\) March – Royal Academy of Music – afternoon only  
Wednesday 8\(^{th}\) March – Parents’ evening  
Thursday 30\(^{th}\) March – CLC – morning only  
Friday 31\(^{st}\) March – the last day of term

If you would like to discuss anything with us, please do not hesitate to contact us or come in for a chat before or after school. Any help that you can give with our topic will also be greatly appreciated. We’re looking forward to a fun and successful term. Thank you for your on-going support.

Kind regards

Nicola Budd and Rhian Mulji