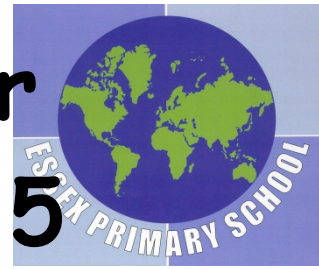


Year 4 Newsletter

Autumn Term 2015



We have a very exciting half term ahead. The children will be working through cross curricular links and will be going swimming in October.

Homework

Homework is a continuation of school work at home. The children are given activities that reflect what has been taught in the week. This is a great opportunity for your child to practise the skills they have learnt and try and apply them independently. Please comment on the homework to let us know how your child found the level of challenge. Our aim is to provide homework that challenges as well as consolidates learning.

Reading

We are keen for the children to progress in their reading, to do this they need to read aloud daily to an adult. Please write a short comment in their reading record to communicate to us how they are reading at home.

Spellings

Weekly spellings should be practised at home in readiness for the spelling test each week. Ask your child to use the word in a sentence to check they understand its meaning.

Literacy

A writing task is given, based on the week's teaching and learning, for a variety of subjects.

Numeracy

Activities are given based on the unit of work taught that week. An example is always given, as a reminder to children of how to solve the problem.

Speak Up!

Talk Homework will be included in the homework. A poem will be given to be learned off by heart at the beginning of each half term. These will be performed in an assembly each half term.



PE days

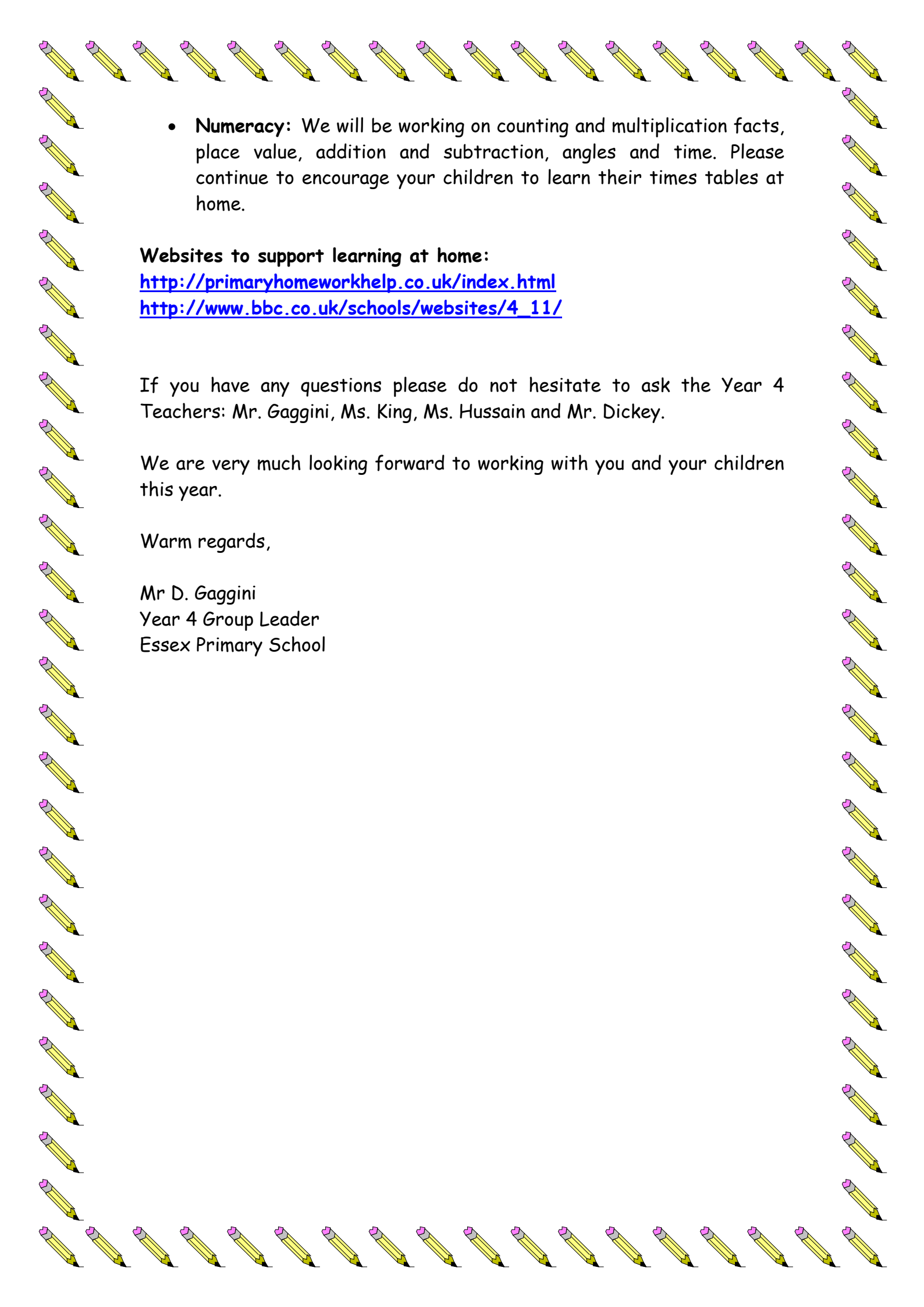
Monday or Wednesday(Outdoor): Outdoor PE

Swimming every day in the weeks beginning 10th and 17th October.

Please remember to bring your PE kit on a Monday morning and take it home to wash on a Friday.

Topics for this term

- **Writing** - Our Literacy units will mainly link in with our history topic of the Romans. We will be reading and writing our own myths and legends about Romulus and Remus, writing recounts within the context of the Roman invasion and writing stories with historical descriptions or settings. We will also be writing poetry linked to Diwali. In art we will be making Diwali cards and making Diyas to inspire our writing ideas. Our grammar focus will be on capital letters, full stops, exclamation marks, commas and apostrophes.
- **Reading** - During Guided Reading the children will focus on developing different reading strategies and their comprehension skills. They will be taught to read with expression and to read for understanding.
- **Spellings** - Spellings will be issued on Fridays to be practised at home as part of the weekly homework. The children will use the Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check strategy to learn their spellings. Spellings will be assessed through a weekly spelling test.
- **Speak Up!** We are continuing to promote Standard English in both speaking and writing.
- **Science** - We are learning about states of matter. We will be learning how to compare and group materials together according to if they are solids, liquids or gases. We will be exploring how materials can change state when they are heated or cooled. We will also be exploring the role of evaporation and condensation in the water cycle. Our second topic will be about sound. We will explore how sound is made, how it travels and sound can be changed. These lessons will be taught alongside music and DT where the children will get to make and play their own musical instruments.
- **History** - Our topic is The Roman Empire. We will learn about Julius Caesar's attempted invasion in 55 - 54 BC. We will study the power of the Roman army, successful Roman invasions and the British resistance through exploring who Boudicca was.
- **Computing** - Computing will be included within all subjects but we will have a specific focus on Online Safety and we will be having a basic skills computing unit too.

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- **Numeracy:** We will be working on counting and multiplication facts, place value, addition and subtraction, angles and time. Please continue to encourage your children to learn their times tables at home.

Websites to support learning at home:

<http://primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/index.html>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4_11/

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask the Year 4 Teachers: Mr. Gaggini, Ms. King, Ms. Hussain and Mr. Dickey.

We are very much looking forward to working with you and your children this year.

Warm regards,

Mr D. Gaggini
Year 4 Group Leader
Essex Primary School