



MIDHURST C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ashfield Road

Midhurst

West Sussex

GU29 9JX

Tel: 01730 813526 **Fax:** 01730 817233

e-mail: office@midhurst-pri.w-sussex.sch.uk

website: www.midhurst-primary-school.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr M Barnes

10th January 2012

Dear Parents,

Personal Projects

The Year 4s have now chosen the subject area for their personal project and are now ready to get started on them. As this is their second time of doing a personal project, most children should be clear about how they are going to tackle this term's project, we have already spent some time today discussing their projects and begun to do some research. Just in case you have any further queries regarding the personal projects, below is a list of 'frequently asked questions'.

Why do the children do a personal project?

The aim of the project is to give children a chance to study something they are really interested in. They get to choose what to learn about and how to present it, helping to build up those important independent study skills.

What should the project be about?

When the children were choosing the subject-matter for their project, I emphasised that, first and foremost, it should be about something that they are particularly interested in. In addition, it should ideally be about something that children can easily find out about – it is really helpful if they already have books or other resources on the subject.

Do we need access to a computer/the internet?

No. Children can do a great project without it. The work does not need to be word-processed, and sometimes, websites can be overwhelming with the amount of information they contain. For certain subjects, many websites are not very 'child-friendly' – the children can't understand what they are reading, and they would be better off with a child's book on the subject. I have asked the children not to simply include 'printed-off' web pages as part of their project.

What sort of folder do we need?

This is up to the children, but you do not need to go out and buy a special folder. Big, lever-arch folders are not ideal, because they are bulky and difficult to store. A ring binder, a display folder or a scrap book are ideal. If there is a problem, I can provide a card 'manila' folder for children to keep their work in.



How should it be presented?

Again, this is for the children to choose. I have spoken to them about presenting work in a creative way. Work can be handwritten (pen or pencil – it's their choice) or word processed. They can use paper or card of their choice and can include photos, drawings, diagrams, tables etc.

Does all the work have to be done at home?

I would expect most of the project to be done as homework, but there will be some opportunities for the children to work on it at school. I will be offering a session up with access to the ICT suite once every two/three weeks. The children will also continue to be encouraged to make use of our well stocked library.

Can wordsearches and games be included?

Yes, but these should be a minor part of the project! I have suggested to the children that, if they want them, they should include no more than 3 things for a 'fun and games' section.

How can I help my child with the project?

I want the children to see the project as theirs and hope that they can work independently on much of it. Please don't do it for them! However, advice and encouragement from you and taking an interest in the project will help the children. You could give advice on 'what to do next'; help them out if they are trying to take notes from a book; encourage a visit to the local library to find books and talk to them about how the project is going. Please discourage your child from merely printing off information from websites!

When does it need to be finished?

I will collect completed projects on the penultimate week of term (week of the 19th of March).

The children are all very excited and keen to get started on the projects! If you do still have any burning questions please don't hesitate to come and see me.

Many thanks,



Miss H Maxfield