Dear Parents,

Welcome to 4/5/6V. My name is Vicky Valensise and I will be your child’s class teacher for this year. 4/5/6V is a multi-stage class with independent workers where some students require extension in one or more areas of the curriculum. Year 4 will still be taught Stage 2 content and will be extended where the need arises. I am able to cater for the individual needs through group work. Students are placed in groups for English and Mathematics. I assess students based on stage outcomes and Stage 2 and 3 have different expectations which they are always aware of.

This overview is to inform you of the learning program that is to occur this term in your child’s class. I hope that you find this information useful in helping your child at home. If you have any concerns, please arrange a time to meet with me. My best available time is Thursday afternoons or before school on Thursday and Friday.

ENGLISH
Reading: This term, we will be looking closely at the English concept - ‘Author’s Craft’. Through the close study of quality texts, students will interpret, analyse and evaluate the stylistic features authors use to engage their audience. Students will also develop their comprehension strategies using the ‘Super Six Skills’ and will participate in daily Guided Reading sessions.
Novel Study: I am hoping to study the novel ‘Wonder’ by R.J. Palacio. In order to do this effectively I ask that the parents borrow a copy from their local library or if possible buy a copy. I would like feedback as to whether this is feasible.
Speaking and Listening: Behind the News listening programs, preparation for public speaking, Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition and impromptu speeches.
Writing: The focus this term will be on Informative and Imaginative Texts. Students will write explanations linking in to our Science unit, such as ‘How Do Earthquakes Occur?’ In the latter part of the term, the writing focus will be imaginative texts, where students will write narratives. Writing will be taught through teacher modelling, joint construction and independent writing.
Spelling/Vocabulary: 4/5/6V will be exposed to a new bank of words fortnightly. The aim of spelling is not only to learn to spell their words but also to use these in their writing. Each and every student has an individualised spelling list which is compiled as a result of pre-testing and words they spelt incorrectly in their weekly writing. Good spellers are provided with challenging words that will expand their vocabulary.
Grammar: The grammar focus is derived from our modelled reading and our writing. This term we will focus on sentences, complex punctuation, connectives, cause and effect statements and figurative language.

MATHEMATICS
The focus areas for this term are:
Whole Number – place value, reading and writing large numbers, expanded notation, rounding numbers
Addition & Subtraction - Using mental strategies such as the Jump strategy, Compensation strategy and the Split strategy as well as the formal written algorithm.
2D – name regular and irregular two-dimensional shapes, name triangles and describe their properties, construct shapes using geometric tools.
Multiplication and Division: factors, multiples and solving multiplication problems using the ‘area model’ and the formal written algorithm.
Statistics and Probability: graphs using a key and line graphs
Position - Use maps and grids to represent position and follow routes.
Patterns and Algebra: missing terms, creating patterns, filling in a table of values.
Fractions and Decimals: ordering fractions, proper and improper fractions, equivalent fractions.
3D: identifying the properties of prisms and pyramids.
Working Mathematics: Students will be given problems to solve using a ‘toolbox’ of strategies such as working backwards, simplifying a problem, drawing a table.
HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT (HSIE)
‘Identity and Values’- Students will explore the Australian way of life and the contribution of different cultural groups to the Australian identity. This unit will be taught by my RFF teacher, Mrs Kelly Shearer.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
‘Earthquake Explorers’- Students will investigate and draw conclusions about how earthquakes occur and how they change the Earth’s surface. This unit of work will be taught by myself and the RFF teacher.
Technology: IpadS in the classroom will be used for research and creating presentations. Students will learn how to use presentation tools such as ‘Prezi’.

CREATIVE AND PRACTICAL ARTS (CAPA)
Visual Arts: The students will look at portraits this term.
Dance: Dance 2 B Fit on Thursday afternoons.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND PE (PDHPE)
Healthy Living: Students have permission to eat fruit or vegetables during class time whilst they are working at their desks.
Fitness/Sport: Dance 2 B Fit on Thursday afternoons. Students will also participate in Newcomb ball, soccer and T-ball on Friday afternoons.
Personal Development: A focus on school rules and social relationships.

Other:
Library: 4/5/6V will go to the Library on Tuesdays from 11:20-12:00pm with Mrs Jensen. As well as return and borrow their books, students will complete research based tasks based on the ‘Identity and Values’ unit.

Homework: This is a little different this year. Homework will be given out on Thursday and handed in the following Thursday. This allows students extra time. As a parent myself, I understand how busy life can be with after school activities.

I am looking forward to a happy and productive year working with the students and the families of Chipping Norton Public School. Together we have a common goal- to help your child be a happy, well-adjusted and successful student.

Thanking you
Mrs V. Valensise