

Dear Parents/Guardians

Happy new year to you all from the Webburn team. It was lovely to see the children return to school full of their Christmas news and happily settle back into school life again with their friends. Having the fabulous outside area and the new role play castle area full of dressing up clothes certainly helped.

As you may have gathered from visiting the classroom or from your child our new topic is Fairy Tales and Fantasy stories. Please see our topic web on the entrance door to Webburn for more information on our planned activities. The children have had a say in what they want to learn and all seem very excited to get going on this topic. Literacy is also following the topic theme this time with fairy tales Jack and the Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood and Chicken Licken to start us off. We will be retelling the stories, comparing different versions and making up our own versions. This will be done through lots of roleplay to fully understand the characters and plot. Maths learning will be focusing on reading, writing and ordering numbers to 100, place value, knowing number bonds for 8, 9 and 10. Counting in 2's and 10's and transferring these skills when using money. In PE we are focusing on locomotor skills and dance with a view to creating our own fairy tale dance to perform to other primary schools at a dance festival in the academy next half term. The majority of the class voted to take part in this event. Keep **Friday 24th March** free from 3pm and all being well we will do a little performance in the hall for Webburn parents. We are hoping to conclude the topic with a trip to a Castle and/or a banquet. We will keep you posted on these plans as they develop.

We are sending home your child's learning targets for reading, writing and maths. It would be helpful if you could do any activities to reinforce these at home. Please see the useful website links on our webpage. Parents evenings are coming up and we do have a sharing afternoon on the **9th February** we hope you can come along too, but please do come and see us straight away if you ever have any queries about your child. Feel free to email or phone if that is easier.

Our fantastic outside area is available to the children throughout the day, please do ensure your child comes to school in appropriate Widecombe weather gear- it can get very cold and wet and we don't want children to miss out on outdoor time. We do have a good supply of spare wellies but warm coats are essential everyday. Please take a moment to **clearly label** clothing, water bottles and book bags as many labels are wearing out.

It really does help if you can find time to regularly share your child's reading book with them. Please try not to think of it as homework. Make it fun, the children know they are expected to practice at home. If it is too much of a struggle choose one easy book and one more challenging one. Let your child read the easy one to boost their confidence and to get them in the daily reading habit at home and share the challenge book together, spot words, letter sounds, ask your child what the story was about etc. Please leave a message in their yellow book about how they get on so we can celebrate the reading the children do at home as well as at school. It is expected that they are reading daily at home. If you are finding it a battle pop in for some ideas of how to make it more enjoyable. We are lucky to have two helpers Annie and Norma who read with the children and help them to change their book to ensure they have plenty of challenge. If you bring and collect your child to and from school

please help yourself to the next reading book if you feel your child is ready to move on. We welcome you changing their books regularly. Please ask if you would like us to show you how our system works. Remember to use **Teach your Monster to Read** as this is really proving to help children make progress.

Reception get a weekly home activities update which I hope parents are finding to be a good link in with school and year 1 get to have weekly spellings. I know this is not everyones idea of fun but if you could spend a few moments just going over them each week it would be much appreciated and it really does help to consolidate learning. We have a spelling test on a Friday. We are offering a broader range of homework activities this half term in an attempt to fully engage children in our topic. Please see attached.

Library book exchange is still on a Friday please can you get your child into the habit of returning their library book **every Friday**, it leads to disappointment for those that forget them. If book bags are brought in every day this does help with keeping all these systems running smoothly.

We are looking forward to the term ahead and working with you and your children. Please find some more "I can" sheets attached- the children really do enjoy sharing these with us and it can be anything from writing a shopping list, performing a song, to riding their bike/horse!

Thank you for your continued support.

Anna, Amy, Fiona and Claire

