



11th January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy new year! It sounds like you all had a lovely festive break judging by the children's news this week. We welcome Molly into our Year 1 group - our children have been really good friends to her and helped her settle right in. We are joined again this term by our student teachers Miss Hewitt and Miss McCarley. They will be building up their teaching commitment under our guidance over the term and the children have already enjoyed some fun phonics games and even had a German lesson with them this week. We continue to have our volunteers who come in to listen to children read, help out at Webburn woodland and to maintain our garden. If you think you could offer support in any of these areas please do let us know. All support is gratefully received. We are going to have a big push on raising money to replace the roof of our outside area. If you have any money making ideas or know anybody who could make us watertight please do let us know.

This term our topic is 'Time machine' where we will be going back in time to learn about the past. We will tie in with the rest of the school who are learning about the Romans and we will look at aspects of Roman history. There will be lots of opportunities for imagining and pretending in the past and the future. We will look at the past using nursery rhyme illustrations to compare now and then. We will also plan a school trip towards Easter and at the moment the children are trying to decide where they would like to go to learn about the past. If you have any special artefacts from the past at home please do bring them in to show us.

Literacy: We will start off with activities based on the book by Michael Rosen - "Dear Mother Goose", which will combine nursery rhymes with letter writing. So dig out those nursery rhyme books and get singing at home. In phonics reception will continue learning the phase 3 sounds and tricky words and move onto phase 4. Year 1 will continue to work through the phase 5 sounds and tricky words. It will be really useful to have those sound mats on display at home so you can make daily reference to them and they can be used by your child to support any writing they may do at home or to support their daily home reading. Year 1 will continue to have weekly spellings to learn. These will be given out at the beginning of the week and children will be quizzed on them on a Friday. If you have any problems with these do come in and see us straight away.

Maths: We will continue to use the White Rose approach and we start off with addition and subtraction within 20, followed by place value (within 50 for year

1). We will end the term by learning about length, height, weight and volume. For the first few weeks of term year 1. We will use our knowledge of adding up to 10 to add up to 20. We will start with the larger number in order to add on efficiently. Reception will be learning their numbers up to 20 and learning about pairs of numbers which add together to make 10. They have enjoyed doing this practically through card games so far this week. We are still aiming to get our maths learning as good as our reading and writing. This term we will continue to focus on embedding our key facts and will be using some new online resources to support us.

We love to share and celebrate good news and again it helps us with knowing how your child is learning and developing at home. Please remember to use the 'I can....' sheets. If you need any more throughout the term you will find them on the Webburn section of the school website or you can pop in and pick some up from the parents notice board in Webburn. Please name and date them.

Reading: Your child will regularly read at school through guided reading and individual reading sessions. It is so valuable to take some time each day to share your child's reading book with them and we strongly encourage you to write a comment in the reading record book each time. We do read your comments regularly and we can celebrate with the children if they have done well or address any concerns you may have. We will write in these books for you too so that there is a good line of communication about your child's reading. If you would like any guidance with supporting your child's reading or have any concerns please feel free to talk to us at any time.

Please continue to help yourselves to the reading books at drop off times and pick up as and when you need a new one (maybe twice/three times a week) and work your way through our reading scheme with your child. Please ask for help on how to do it if you are unsure. If your child comes in on the bus we appreciate this is difficult and that is where our volunteer helpers are really valued. **Please make sure that your child has a book bag with a reading record book and reading book in it each day in school.**

Every Friday, the children will have a library session where they will be able to choose a book to take home and share. We ask that the children return the book **every** Friday please. It is great to get into the routine of returning the book each week as the children really do enjoy choosing a new one for the weekend. It's a lovely special time which the children really value. In light of the above it would be very helpful if your child could bring in their book bag every day please. Also try to empty it of other things as some of them are so full they don't fit into their trays!

Science: We will be learning about ourselves and what our amazing bodies can do, with a focus on the senses. We will also find out about different animals later in the term. An ongoing element of our science learning is the weather and how it changes across the seasons, so we will try and get outside where we can.

Computing: We use technology in the classroom on a daily basis. The children will continue to use the interactive whiteboard, laptops, Ipads and chrome books, and we will link their use to all other subjects wherever we can.

P.E: This term we will be learning dance and multi skills. We will be taking part in a dance festival where we will perform our dance to other schools. Children will be working on creating their own dance based on our time machine topic work. Please see the main newsletter for the date of this as we may need help with transport. We will try to arrange a performance for parents during a sharing afternoon. Again watch the newsletter for information later in term.

We are also lucky enough to be having a weekly PE session with Mr Patchett who is part of the school sports partnership we buy into. He is an experienced PE teacher who taught Upper Dart and Lower Dart last term and now it's Webburn's turn. These sessions will be outside on a Thursday afternoon. It is too cold for PE kits this time of year, however please can you make sure your child has suitable footwear for running around outside on that day.

Widcombe woodlanders: We have already been down to the woods this week with Mrs Reynolds and even though it was a dry sunny day we had lots of cold toes and fingers and this leads to unhappy children. Please ensure that children come in with plenty of layers from head to toe along with a change of clothes in case they get wet. Warm children = happy children.

Remember - warm clothes Wednesdays. Wellies are essential as they love to splash around in the stream. Please can you label all clothing including hats and gloves where possible.

We are looking forward to a fun term ahead. Make sure you come and see us at the parents' evenings however if you do have any queries or concerns before then , do come and see us straight away.

We are about to become a THRIVE school; which means we will use the THRIVE approach throughout our setting and as part of our whole school ethos. THRIVE is a specialist intervention programme that supports children with their emotional health, well-being and social skills; all of which are needed for learning to take place. Please see Thrive information sheet for further information and do pop into our Q&A sessions the week after next.

We thank you for your continued support.

Anna, Jodi, Paula, Claire and Katherine

