

## Year 1 Spring Term

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back!

We hope you've all had a lovely holiday and the children have had a good break. Mrs Crossman and I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and thank you for your kind gifts for Christmas, we were overwhelmed by your kindness. It was lovely to hear the children's excited news about their Christmas holidays and they've settled back into school really well.

### Topics

If you have relevant resources for any of our class topics this term we'd encourage your child to bring them into school to share with the rest of the class.

Here are the topics we'll be investigating in the Spring term:

#### Spring 1 - Down Under

Geography - a study of Australia, a non-European country.

Science - Everyday Materials

RE - Baptism

Art - Textiles, a wall hanging reflecting the Great Barrier Reef

Chosen Author - Shirley Hughes

#### Spring 2 - All Aboard

History - Christopher Columbus & other explorers

Science - Changing Materials & Forces

RE - Easter and new life

DT - Investigating waterproof materials to make model boats and islands

Chosen Author - Nick Butterworth

### P.E.

This half term Year 1 will receive tennis coaching for their PE sessions, however the day is yet to be confirmed. Could you please ensure all PE kits are in school by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January so we are prepared!



### Library Books

Your child will continue to have an opportunity to change their library book on a Wednesday, please ensure there are returned weekly.

### Homework

On alternate weeks your child will bring home a piece of Maths or reading comprehension/grammar homework that builds upon learning carried out in class that week. It will be sent home on a Friday and needs to be completed by the following Wednesday. However, at the beginning of each term the first piece of homework will be linked to our new topic.

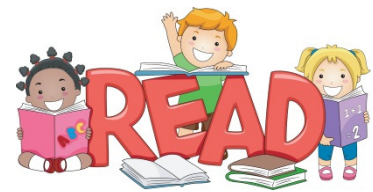


### Common Exception Words

This half term your child will continue to bring home 10 tricky words to practise spelling, these are words that can't always be spelt phonetically and just have to be learnt by looking and practising. I would like them to practise them using the following method: look-say-cover-write-check and correct if needed. There is a section on the given sheet for them to practise them several times each week. These words will be sent home on every Friday, with their homework and assessed the following Friday as a simple spelling test. The words that will be sent home are specific to Year 1 from the National Curriculum expectations. At the end of the half term I'll send home a copy of our spelling tests so you can see how well your child has done.

### Reading

Over the next few weeks your child's home reading book band was assessed to ensure your child is able to confidently and fluently read at home. Please keep up all the good work at home, especially discussing what your child has read and posing questions to check their understanding is secure. Could I also ask that you sign your child's book so we know whether or not to change it, if it isn't signed we have to assume that your child hasn't read to you at home. This half term, Mrs Crossman and I will not listen to them read their home reader at school, it is purely a book to be shared at home. Each group will work with Mrs Crossman developing reading comprehension and exploring other reading targets that are a requirement for the Year 1 standards to be achieved by the end of the year.



Many thanks for your continued support, if you have any further questions, queries or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us.

*K.J. Mackley*

Mrs Mackley and Mrs Crossman