

Dear Parents,

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year! This letter is to let you know what will be happening in Year 1 during the Spring Term.

We have a brand new geography based theme called '**Into the woods**', which will involve us going out and about in the school grounds and local area. The children will be looking at and learning how to make simple maps and plans of the area around them. They will be exploring and studying features of the local environment and we are planning a visit to one of the public buildings in Buckingham. (Details to follow later.)

Parts of our literacy will be closely linked to our theme because we will be studying traditional tales, particularly those set in woods! Phonics and guided reading will continue daily and we will have regular handwriting sessions to reinforce correct letter formation. Key word sheets (for reading common words on sight) will also continue to come home as part of the children's homework and we will be introducing weekly spellings this term.

In Numeracy we start the term with an emphasis on writing numbers correctly (many children will still be reversing numbers at this stage), ordering numbers, place value and addition and subtraction. The children will then continue to count in as many different contexts as possible, use patterns and relationships to solve problems and puzzles, learn more about 2D and 3D shapes and explore ways of solving problems involving numbers, money and measures.

Our science topic is 'Light and Dark'. We will be finding out about different light sources and understanding the need for light in order to see things. Children will learn that darkness is the absence of light and that in the absence of sunlight other light sources are seen more easily.

In I.C.T the children will be giving instructions to programmable floor robots and learning to use Digital Blue cameras to create short animation sequences.

In Art we will be building on our colour mixing skills, doing some collaborative work in groups and sewing trees. R.E. this term is about how stories are a good way of teaching and we will be reading some stories from the bible and thinking about their messages and meanings. In PSHE we are continuing with the theme of 'Keeping ourselves safe' when we are out and about. In French we will be saying what our name is, how we are feeling, how old we are and counting up to twelve.

We are introducing some new 'team members' into Year 1 this term, one or two in each class. They are all small, cuddly characters who we hope the children will enjoy taking home with them if they are going on a journey or visit somewhere. Each character has their own diary which we would like you to help your child to complete with writing, drawings or photos, to tell us about where they have been and how they got there.

PE is on Monday (1JS), Tuesday (1JM) and Wednesday (1GS). Outside games is Tuesday (1JS), Thursday (1GS) and Friday (1JM). May we remind you that PE kits, coats, lunchboxes and all school uniform should be clearly labelled with your child's name. PE kits should be in a draw string bag and contain a t-shirt, shorts and plimsolls (for inside) and jogging bottoms and trainers (for outside games). They should remain in school all half-term. Please can your child also have a pair of Wellingtons to leave in school for this term?

Homework is issued each week on either a Thursday or Friday. It is usually related to something we have been doing in class during the week. Normally literacy or numeracy are given on alternate weeks but sometimes homework may relate to other subjects e.g. science. Homework should be returned to school on the following Monday if possible, but at the latest by the Wednesday.

Thank you for all your help and cooperation. We are all looking forward to another busy and exciting term in Year One!