



# Year 1 Spring 2023



Dear Parent/ Carer,

Welcome back! We hope you have had a lovely Christmas break and have enjoyed lots of rest and quality family time.

## Year 1 learning

As always, we aim to make our learning, where possible, with first-hand experiences, and we will be getting out and about around the village, our school grounds, and in the woodland as well as working in the classroom!

In Science this term we will be using our seasonal knowledge to explore seasonal change with a focus on different trees, plants and animals and locating these in our environment. We will develop our investigative skills and collate our own data.

Our main focus for learning is Geography. We will be looking at the United Kingdom, locating and exploring countries, counties, towns, cities and countryside within this. If you have managed to explore any parts of North Yorkshire during recent weeks, please could we possibly have some photos to share real life experiences in the classroom? We can print these in school and use them as part of our display to help children understand the bigger picture of the country we live in. If you have recently travelled further afield in the UK then please also share any photos with us.

Later in the term we shall be returning to our 20<sup>th</sup> Century history with our topic centring on Queen Elizabeth II. We also hope to look at the life and achievements of Mary Anning.

In PE we will be practising our bat and ball skills. P.E. lessons will continue to be on a Friday. This term the children will also be attending swimming lessons at Queen Margaret's on a Wednesday morning. The children will be assessed in their first session then placed in to best fit ability groups. More information to follow.

Please can children bring and leave their PE kits in school on a Monday, so we have access to them throughout the week if needed.

## Homework

Our homework this term will continue to be focused on our Phonics learning in the classroom following Little Wandle. Weekly homework will outline the new graphemes and tricky words children have covered in that week. It is very beneficial to review these sounds and words at home to help consolidate new learning.

Maths homework will also be sent home fortnightly, again relating to the children's learning in the classroom so you have a flavour of our current topics and can share these at home.

## A Creative Curriculum

As always, we try to make our curriculum as creative and engaging as we possibly can, and aim to foster a love for learning by having a focus on practical, creative and active tasks wherever possible so that the children enjoy and remember activities. To this end, please ensure your child's woodland kits are kept in school: although we will not be having our weekly woodland sessions this term, we will be accessing the woodland on a fortnightly basis (maybe more) for other cross curricular topics.

## Reading

Reading is a huge part of your child's development and is vital to support the phonic skills they are learning in school. Please continue to read at home and remember this is not restricted to school reading books.

As discussed in our Phonics Information Evening, Sharing Stories will be swapped every Thursday/Friday in school. These books are to share with your child and not for your child to read independently but together, predominantly read by an adult.

We aim to create a love of reading and books, so sharing a book promotes an opportunity to talk in depth about the story, characters and children's predictions/interests. There are lots of other materials you can share including magazines and instructions for games and new toys, reading is a life skill and we need to practice as much as we can.

Close phonic assessments mean we link your children's direct phonetical knowledge with the correct level ECollins Book. This will be released every Friday into your online library. If you have trouble accessing this, please get in touch as soon as possible.

Please can we try our hardest to return sharing stories every **Thursday/Friday** and to bring your children's reading record in every **Thursday** for the weekly stamping after their third 'in school' read.

Once again, a huge thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mrs Robinson and Mrs Peters.

