

St. Mary's C. E. Primary School

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Headteacher: Justin Murray

Tuesday 9th January 2024

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring Term!

We would like to say another huge thank you for all the Christmas cards, messages and gifts that we received. It was so kind of you. We hope you all had an enjoyable and restful Christmas holiday.

We have a busy term ahead with lots of exciting activities planned.

As you are aware, the first half of the term we will be focusing on the topic toys. We will explore and investigate modern day toys and toys from the past.

Over the next few weeks, we will share some favourite texts that will include Old Bear, Knuffle Bunny, Dogger and Ruby as well as others.

We will then move our focus to teddy bears which will include learning about the famous bear Paddington!

The children will have the opportunity to bring in their own favourite bear from home. They will use their bear to take part in different activities which will include a teddy bears picnic. More details of this will be given nearer the time.

Alongside this topic, we will learn about Chinese New Year and continue our learning about seasons with a focus on winter. We will also take part in Bird Watch which gets the children thinking about how they can look after the wildlife in their gardens. We will be using the Percy the Park Keeper stories to support our learning. As you are aware from the message I sent out via Class Dojo, we are hoping to arrange a visit to the Wetlands Centre in Arundel. I will keep you updated with this once a decision has been made.

Here are a few reminders for the half term!

Cold Weather

As the weather has got colder, we have been practising zipping up our coats, putting on scarves, hats and gloves. Please can the children continue to practise this at home too. Dojo points are being given out for all those that can zip up their coats independently!!

Forest School

Forest School will continue every Tuesday afternoon. As the weather has turned and become very cold, please dress your child in warm clothes and please ensure they have a hat and gloves to wear for the afternoon

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PE

PE will continue every Friday afternoon and our focus is Gymnastics. The children have been exploring different ways to travel around the hall and learning to balance on different parts of their bodies. We will also be learning to use mats, benches and tables for our gymnastics lessons.

Afternoon Snack

Please keep sending in an afternoon fruit/vegetable snack. The children have really enjoyed this social time and it keeps them going for the afternoon!

Waterproof Clothing

Please ensure you have sent back your child's waterproof all-in-one. The children use these regularly for Forest School and wet playtimes.

Water

Please make sure your child has a water bottle in school every day. Just a reminder it is water only in their bottles.

Reading and Phonics

The children will continue to take home books/ditties regularly that are linked to our Read Write Inc. Phonics Scheme. Depending on which group your child is in, the book/ditty might be changed daily or every 3 days. If it is every 3 days, please share the same book over 3 days. This will help develop your child's confidence, fluency and pace.

Please remember to record the books they read at home in their reading record. The children will receive a certificate and medal for every 20 reads they do which will be awarded in our Good Work Assembly on a Friday.

The children are doing a brilliant job learning their 'Grid Words'. Please continue to encourage your child to learn these at home. Once they know them well, make a note in their reading record and they will be given the next set to learn and a prize!

Home Learning

The children have now completed all Set 1 sounds from our Read Write Inc. program. Please keep practising these sounds at home using their red books. It's vital the children are able to read these sounds speedily. Over the next 2 weeks, we will be revising Set 1 Special Friend sounds (e.g. nk, ng, th, sh, ch, ck) and we will work on reading words that include these sounds. Once the children are confident with these, we will begin learning Set 2 Sounds. Like before, we will send home the Sound of the Day for you to reinforce at home.

Book Bags

Please can you ensure that you send in your child's book bag every day together with their zippy reading folder. Please make sure the zippy reading folder contains their reading record and 'Book Bag Book or Ditty sheet'.

Wow Wall

Thank you to those of you that uploaded photos onto Tapestry over the Christmas Holiday. It was so lovely to see and hear about the experiences they were having. I have added the photos to our Wow Wall. Please continue to send in things for our 'WOW Wall'. This board is used to celebrate the children's achievements at home. We would love to see any photographs, certificates, pictures/writing/drawings they do at home. Please share with us anything that makes the children feel proud of themselves. This can be done via Tapestry, book bags, Class Dojo.

As always, if you have any queries, questions or worries please contact us via Class Dojo or telephone the office for anything that needs an urgent response.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Anderson, Mrs Black and Mrs Mitchell