

St. Mary's C. E. Primary School

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Headteacher: Justin Murray

Friday 9th January 2026

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. During 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, including *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, including 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 wildlife in their gardens. We will be using the *Percy the Park Keeper* stories to support our learning.

Here are a few reminders for the half term:

Wheels Day - Thursday 15th January

The children are invited to bring into school an outdoor toy that has wheels (e.g. a bike, scooter, go-kart, remote control car, etc.). Use your imagination!

Toys will be kept securely and used throughout the school day. All toys must meet safety standards. If your child is bringing a bike, scooter or go-kart, a helmet must be worn. Please ensure helmets are clearly named. Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Local Winter Walk

Farrant and Oliver Class will spend the afternoon looking for signs of winter in our local area. Date to be confirmed.

Cold Weather

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

Forest School

Forest School will continue every Tuesday afternoon and is led by Mrs Ashton and Mrs Mitchell. As the weather is very cold, please dress your child in warm clothing and ensure they have a hat and gloves for the afternoon.

PE

PE will continue every Wednesday afternoon and will now be run by our new PE coach, Coach Adamou.

Afternoon Snack

Please continue to send in an afternoon fruit or vegetable snack. The children have really enjoyed this social time, and it helps keep them going for the afternoon.

Waterproof Clothing

Please ensure your child's waterproof all-in-one has been returned to school, as these are used regularly for Forest School and wet playtimes.

Water

Please make sure your child brings a water bottle to school every day. Just a reminder that bottles should contain water only.

Reading and Phonics

The children will continue to take home books regularly linked to our Read Write Inc. phonics scheme. Your child's book will be changed once it has been read three times, which helps develop confidence, fluency and pace.

Please remember to record every time your child reads at home in their reading record. Children will receive a certificate and medal for every 20 reads, 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 practise these at home. Once your child knows them confidently, 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. programme. Please continue practising these sounds at home using their blue books. It is vital that the children can read these sounds speedily.

Over the past week, we have revised Set 1 Special Friends sounds (e.g. *nk, ng, th, sh, ch, ck*) and practised reading words containing these sounds. Once the children are confident, we will begin learning Set 2 sounds. As before, we will send home the Sound of the Day for you to reinforce at home.

Book Bags

Please ensure your child brings their book bag into school every day, along with their zipped reading folder. The reading folder should contain their reading record and Book Bag Book.

WOW Wall

Thank you to those who have been sharing WOW moments via ClassDojo. It is lovely to see and hear about the experiences the children are having outside of school.

Please continue to share items for our WOW Wall, which celebrates the children's achievements at home. We would love to see photographs, certificates, drawings, writing or anything else that makes your child feel proud. These can be shared via book bags or ClassDojo.

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

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Anderson