Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term 3. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed your break with your families. Thank you to so many of you for your lovely, thoughtful gifts.

This will be another busy term with lots of exciting learning opportunities planned including a visit from the Fire Brigade and the creation of a post - tudor street as part of our topic on The Great Fire of London.

This term the children in EYFS will be engaged in the following learning :

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| Reading and Phonics | The children will be moving on to Phase 3 sounds which are more tricky because they will be learning digraphs where 2 letters form 1 sound. We will send copies of these home so that you can support your child with these. Once these are secure, children will move onto Red and then Yellow Book Bands. |
| Writing | The children will be writing sentences using the sounds they have learnt to spell more complex words. We will also be using the Talk4Writing approach where they children will learn a simple, well known story and then retell their own version in their own words. Later in the term the children will be bringing home some of their story maps so they can tell their own story to you. Storytelling is crucial to early literacy and we have had strong writing results using this method in previous years. |
| Maths | The children will be counting and ordering numbers to 20, use number lines to add and subtract, learn the names of 3D shapes, measure length and height and finally work on doubling and halving. |
| Understanding the World | We will be focusing on houses and homes this term whilst making some links with the work the older children are doing on the Great Fire of London. The children will be exploring the different sorts of houses there are in the world, comparing their own houses as well as constructing their own dens. We will also be exploring food with the rest of the class, ,making our own pizzas, tasting different breads and making our own healthy sandwiches.  Forest School continues and they will be exploring the changes in the seasons now we are in Winter. |
| Expressive Arts and Design | The children will be joining the rest of the class in designing and making their own house as part of the Great Fire of London topic. They will be learning how to measure, cut, glue and assemble. |
| Physical Development | PE and Forest School continue as usual developing gross motor skills, co-ordination and balance. We will also continue to focus on fine motor skills involved in using scissors, one handed tools and handwriting. Correct letter formation is taught every day. |

**The children in EYFS will also join the whole class for PE, RE, Music, French and PSHE**

Children in Years 1 and 2 will be engaged in the following learning :

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| Phonics and Spelling | Children in Year 1 will continue to learn the Phase 5 phonics and start to use the alternative spellings for various sounds.  Children in Year 2 will work on spelling patterns daily during the phonics sessions.  All children need to practise their tricky words in their blue books – these are tested weekly |
| English | The children will be completing an Author study this term using Quintin Blake and Roald Dahl as our focus authors. We will be hearing their stories and writing our own version in the style of the author.  Later in the term we will be writing recounts based on The Great Fire of London. In the last week of term we will be studying a poet and is/her poetry. Children in Year 1 will also be focusing on handwriting, simple punctuation rules ( capital letters for names and places, full stops and question marks) as well as beginning to read their own work to check for mistakes. Children in Year 2 will be learning to use more complex punctuation for different sentence types ( exclamation sentences, commands, questions, speech) . They will also be developing their understanding of the terms nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, determiners, suffixes and prefixes. |
| Maths - Year 1 | The children will be learning to measure length and height using a ruler, they will explore numbers to 40, add and subtract numbers to 40, solve word problems and number patterns, explore the properties of 3D shapes before investigating how to multiply and divide number and quantity. |
| Maths – Year 2 | The children will be measuring practically and solving word problems to do with length, height, weight, capacity and temperature. Later they will explore the properties of 3D shape. Towards the end of the term they will explore fractions finding quarters, halves and three quarters of shapes and quantity. Please continue to practise telling the time at home. |
| Science | We will explore the topic of Food this term. We shall be exploring healthy choices of food as well as sorting and classifying different food groups. We will design and make our own pizzas, taste various breads before making our own healthy sandwiches. If your child has any allergies we are not aware of, please inform the office. |
| Topic | Our topic this term is The Great Fire of London. We will be exploring the events, thinking about the causes of the fire and how historians find out what it was like in the past using different sources. We will also explore the consequences of the fire on our cities today. Later in the term we will re-create the Great Fire in the playground when we set light to our cardboard post-tudor street ! To prepare for this we have also arranged for the local Fire Brigade to talk to the children about fire safety and hopefully a visit from our own fire engine ! |
| Design and Technology | We will be keeping with the theme of the Great Fire by designing and making our own cardboard post tudor houses complete with straw roofs. The children will be developing their measuring and cutting skills as well as learning various techniques for joining and hinging. |
| RE | The children will be learning about the Muslim faith this term |
| PE | We will continue to work on balance, co-ordination and agility through a mixture of games and activities |
| Music | The children will be learning about pitch |
| French | The children will be learning numbers to 20, days of the week, months of the year and speaking about their families |
| PSHE | We will be talking about how they like to learn, how to set goals and the discussing the skills needed to achieve their goals |

**Homework**

Homework tasks will continue to be set weekly, including children in EYFS.

Each child will be set reading and maths homework and children in Y1 and Y2 will also have spelling homework where it is useful for their progress.

**Reading homework :** Each child to read to an adult/sibling at least 4 times a week – this needs to be recorded in the yellow reading record diary and will be checked daily and stickers added to their home reading record chart. Children completing 24 home reads this term will be awarded their reading target certificate in celebration worship. Please can I remind all parents that hearing your child regularly forms part of the **Home School Agreement** and is vital to ensuring your child makes good progress. Our staff will be concentrating on reading comprehension work during our reading sessions and so it is vital that parents hear their child read as often as possible.

**Maths homework :** Each child to practise their maths passport objectives weekly. Please record the work you are doing at home to achieve this with a tick against each objective practised on the sheet provided with their passports. These will be checked every Thursday. After Mrs Feltham has tested the children and they are secure with the objective on 3 separate days they will be awarded their passport and move on to the next one.

Mathletics is available for all children for extra practice should they wish to do more. Certificates are handed out in celebration worship each week once enough points are accrued each week. Login details are contained in their yellow reading record books.

**Spelling homework :**  Spelling sheets given out in Pink Spelling books – please hand in on Mondays

Blue tricky word books contain the words your child needs to practise – these are tested weekly and children moved onto new words once they can spell their list of 5 words.