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## *'Learning at its heart'*

8<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you have had fabulous Christmas break and enjoyed lots of festive family time. We look forward to sharing some of the highlights with the children across our first week back.

We start the year with a topic based on - Who are you going to call? The children will start off the topic with looking at superheroes and all their special powers. We will then learn about the superheroes within our communities looking at the police force, fire fighters, doctors and nurses to name a few. The children will hopefully have the opportunity to meet some real life superheroes and have the chance to ask lots of questions to find out about what happens during their busy work day.

### **Weekly information**

Mrs Hancock will continue to teach in Willow class and will be assisted by Miss Ellis. If you have any concerns, questions or queries that you would like to discuss then please do not hesitate to speak to either of them at the end of the school day.

### **Forest School**

Forest School will continue to be on a Wednesday afternoon and is led by Miss Ellis, supported by Mrs Glass. As the weather is now colder the children will continue to need more, warmer layers of clothing. Gloves, a hat and a warm waterproof coat and trousers will also be essential. We do like to experience all weathers so they must be prepared! Please make sure that their wellies come to school in a separate named bag.

### **PE**

Miss Kay will continue to teach PE on a Tuesday. Please could your child have their PE kit in school at all times including a pair of socks as the girls have begun to wear tights we have had many without socks in their kits. If your child is attending an afterschool club where their kit is worn please can you ensure they bring their kit back the following day as we also have a PE lesson on a Friday.

### **Swimming**

Year 1 children will start swimming on a Friday along with the rest of the school and a separate letter should be received confirming all of the information you will need. Miss Ellis will be supporting the Year 1's whilst Mrs Hancock remains at school with the Reception children.

### **Reading Books**

Year 1 will continue to read daily and their books will be changed depending upon their comprehension of the text. Please could you make sure that your child has their reading book in their Book Bag every day. Please continue to record your comments when your child has read with you and we also would encourage reading to be shared as often as possible. This could mean that the adult is also reading a different book at bed time for example as children being exposed to reading in different ways has so many benefits for their literacy development. We really appreciate your support at home and it really does make a difference to your child's confidence with their reading.





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Reception children will continue to bring home books dependent upon their level and we also encourage adults to read other books to them to promote discussion and imagination.

### **Homework**

Year One children will continue to have a 'Pick and Mix' style homework which will support the learning taking place in the classroom. The children continue to enjoy sharing their homework in the class towards the end of each week and they enjoy the praise offered from their friends. We really appreciate the support provided with this. Children should also be encouraged to read daily at home and talk about what they have read with an adult to support their developing literacy skills.

Reception children will now be provided with a set of what we call tricky red words. These can be used similar to flash cards and support your child to blend and form words that we need to frequently use when we are reading and writing. We will provide a little book for your child to use if they wish to try and copy the words. The words will be changed to suit your child's learning and there is no time limit to a set, once your child is confident to read them, spot them in a sentence and write them we will then move onto the next set.

We value your continuing support with your children's learning. If you have any concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to come in to talk to either Mrs Hancock or Miss Ellis.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hancock and Miss Ellis

