



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome back! We hope you had a fantastic summer holiday and managed to get out and about to see friends and family. I think that this year more than ever we have come to appreciate our locality so hopefully lots of you have taken advantage of our beautiful surroundings.

It has been lovely to have the children back this week and getting into the swing of things. We have an exciting year ahead of us in Year 1 and 2 where we hope to have more trips and experiences than last year!

This letter will give you a brief overview of some of the key information for this term, including the trips and events that are coming up.

### **Start of the Day**

We encourage the children to be responsible for their own belongings and organisation and greatly appreciate your support with this. If you need to pass on important messages to your teacher, please see us in the morning or after school. Alternatively, you can call the office and we will get in contact with you as soon as possible or speak to a senior teacher on the school gate.

### **PE Days**

As mentioned on previous school information, the children will come to school in their PE kit on their designated school days. Please ensure that this kit is appropriate for the weather. A light waterproof is a great addition for wet days.

EFI – Monday and Wednesday

LLO – Monday and Friday

SAB – Tuesday and Thursday

DSM – Tuesday and Thursday

### **Forest School**

Please send your child into school with waterproofs (or old clothes) and wellies in a named bag for them to change into on Forest School days.

EFI – Thursday

LLO – Tuesday

SAB – Tuesday

DSM - Wednesday

### **Topic and Trips**

Year 1 will continue with play projects this term, with a continued focus on collaboration and communication. There will also be an emphasis on evaluating projects, explaining what could have been better and what could be done differently next time.

The year 2 enquiry question for this half term is, "What can we learn from the ant?" This enquiry is PSHE and science based and will be focused around understanding the skills required to be a good team member, such as communication, taking on different roles, resilience and trust. This will be developed through a scientific study of ants in their natural habitats. Through their exploration of how ants interact with each other and their environment, as well as how they work together to collect food and protect their nest, the children will draw out the key principles of effective team work.

To drive these enquiries and practise these vital team building skills we are hoping to be able to visit The Bear Trail in Cullompton. It is *estimated* that the cost will be around £15 per child. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Author and Theatre Visit**

We are so excited to tell you about an upcoming reading event. On Tuesday 5th October, award-winning children's author, Sean Taylor, will be visiting Years 1 and 2 as part of the annual Appledore Book Festival. Sean Taylor is a well-known author of over 50 books for young readers of many different ages. As well as writing, he has many years of experience visiting schools, where he works with poetry and storytelling to encourage young people to read and write themselves.

We will also be having a top-secret theatre visit in December. This visit will celebrate one of our school values - ***Diversity and Difference*** - and will link closely to our PSHE learning. We can't say any more at the present time!

### **Library Books**

Library books and classroom book corner books can now be taken home. It is essential that these books are well cared for; every year we lose many books which costs the school lots of money. Please make sure they are kept safe and are well loved! It is important to make sure the children have a book in school every day as there is usually at least one time in the day where they will have independent reading time. If your child brings a school book home, please ensure that it comes back to school when it is needed.

### **Home Learning Reading**

It is absolutely crucial for your child's development that reading at home is part of a daily routine. They will be taught phonics on a daily basis and read as part of a group once a week. It is very important that children get the opportunity to practise the daily phonics by reading at home and for you to share a passion and enthusiasm for books and stories. We will also send home tricky word cards on a regular basis. We would appreciate it if you could practise reading these with your child until they are able to read them fluently and recognise them in a book.

Year 1 will continue to use Tapestry to set home learning tasks and to communicate and share information with you, including some of the learning that has taken place that week. Year 2 will resume their home learning on Google Classroom in the coming weeks. This homework will also be available as a paper copy for those children who do not have access to a device or Google Classroom at home. Home learning will be set on a Friday, with an expectation that it is completed by the following Wednesday.

### **Oracy**

This year, as a school, we are putting a huge emphasis on children's oracy. Oracy is the ability to express oneself fluently through speech and conversation. As part of this, we may set oracy homework which could involve debates, discussions or presentations at home. As a team, we would be really grateful if you could encourage this to be completed at home. Speaking is a skill that is invaluable throughout life and we can only get better through practise!

We look forward to a year that will hopefully feel increasingly like "normal" and thank you in advance for all of your support.

Year 1 and 2 Team

Miss Fitzgerald, Miss Loman, Mr Smallwood and Mr Abel