



A message from Mr Bladon:

Happy New Year to everyone – I hope you had a good restful break. It's been good to hear from the children about their Christmas holidays. We started the term with a whole school assembly and talked about setting new goals, with a theme of how we can set resolutions that help others, based on our school values. The children had some good ideas about what they might do, from lending favours to simply being kinder. In school we have set our goals for 2018 and have an action packed term ahead of us!

The topic this term is "**The Final Frontier: Space and Robotics**". There's lots planned by the teachers and TAs including the Lego Robotics Day (more below) and a KS1/2 trip to Bristol's "We the Curious" later in the term. Homework grids, KIRFs and Class Teacher Letters are going home today and are also on the website.

We welcome Miss Thornborough who is teaching Squirrel Class and Miss Fairchild, who you may know from our breakfast club; has been appointed as a Teaching Assistant. I know we will make all them feel welcome.

Miss Diggle starts her maternity leave at the end of next week and Miss Johnstone will step in to cover her in Hedgehog class. Mrs Melmoth has also started her transition into her new role running Fieldmouse class. We have some new pupils both in nursery and in the school and it has been good to see them settle in so quickly.

The "**Youth Speaks**" teams are practicing well together and have some interesting topics to present. You'll notice as well that the practice walks for **Exmoor Challenge** are also up on the school website and Y6 parents will be invited to a meeting about that next week. Thanks to Mrs Jones for her hard work on these. Both events are great showcases for our older pupils and their commitment is impressive.

The **Lego Robotics Day** is on Monday. Thank you to all who have made a voluntary contribution towards the cost of this day (if you haven't yet, we'd be grateful, as it is only to cover costs). It promises to be a really exciting day and will inspire the children onto bigger ambitious projects later in the term.

Parent Voice is scheduled for the **24th January at 3pm**. This is a chance for you to ask any questions about school life, suggest any good ideas or simply bring up any concerns. If you'd prefer a different time – for example an evening time – please let me know and I'll arrange it. We really do value your opinion and it would be good to see more of you. Parent consultation week is the week beginning the 5th February and this will give you the opportunity to discuss your child's progress in detail with the class teacher.

Various residentials are in production. Some of the year 6's are off to London very shortly and we wish them a wonderful time. Year 4 has been offered the chance to go to Bristol in March and the letters for Year 5 Dorset Residential have also gone out. There's also the KS2 PGL trip and the Y2 Shark Sleepover to consider so watch this space. As ever with any of our residentials, do speak to the office if you'd like advice on grants or payment plans.

Term Dates (*more dates on [school website](#)*)

Thurs 4 Jan: Spring term starts

Mon 8 Jan: Y1-6 Lego Robotics Day

Tues 9 Jan: 3.00pm Y6 London Residential parents final meeting

Thurs 11 Jan: 3.30pm Exmoor Challenge meeting Year 6

Mon 15-Fri 19 Jan: Y6 London Residential

Wed 24 Jan: 3.00pm Parent Voice

Week comm 5th Feb: Parent Consultation Week

Mon 12th -16th Feb: HALF TERM

Sun 25 Feb: 1st Exmoor Challenge Practice Walk

*Thank you to Mr Sandford, who has again volunteered to produce the **DVD** of the Christmas performance. These will be available next week for a small cost and there will be a message sent out from the office when they are ready.*

Some of you have taken the "Pupil Premium" test on School Gateway. If the result of that indicates that you might be eligible, do give Devon County Council a call on 0345 155 1019 to apply. It's always worth trying.

If anyone is available to help take down the mini Christmas trees around Bampton on Sunday, help would be gratefully received!
Meet at the Bridge Inn at 10am. Bring gloves and stepladders if you have them!