



BAMPTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you enjoyed the half term break and that the children are feeling refreshed and ready to continue their learning in Squirrel class.

Our key question this half-term is '**Why does Christmas matter to Christians?**' which we will explore across our curriculum. We will be preparing for our EYFS and KS1 nativity over the next six weeks and look forward to performing in the church towards the end of term. Further details regarding the nativity production will follow shortly. In Geography we will be learning to name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans. We will also name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas. In Science we will continue our Animal Safari topic by finding out about and describing the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival.

For further information on our curriculum this year please look at the Squirrel class page on the school website.

The rest of this letter provides you with some information that you will find useful for the term ahead.

Routines:

Please ensure that your child checks that they have the following each day:

- A **water bottle** that can be filled up from the classroom tap.
- Their **reading book** and **reading diary**
- There is no need to bring in a rucksack or large bag into school as we do not have space in the cloakroom area. Please continue to bring your child's book bag which we will keep in clear boxes in the classroom.
- Please could your child bring a **waterproof coat** into school every day.
- Your child should be wearing the correct uniform as specified in the uniform policy on the school website.

PE days

We will have our PE lesson on **Monday** and **Thursday**. The children will need to come to school dressed appropriately without having the need of a separate PE kit bag left in school.

Devon County Council requires that jewellery, including earrings and studs, be removed for P.E. and related activities for health and safety reasons.

Home Learning

Home learning is an important part of your child's education. The home learning set will be planned to reinforce the work being covered in class. Each week home learning activities are set on a Friday. We will be using Ed Shed for spelling homework. Please see the Spelling Shed and Numbots/TTRockstars letters attached which details how to access the site. Your child's log in and password is stuck into the front of their reading diary. If you are finding it difficult to access these resources please let me know.

Year 1 and 2 Spellings

A list of spellings are given out every week based on the national curriculum or particular spelling strategies being learnt in class that week. I then test the children on these spellings the following Friday. We will be regularly learning, practising and testing these words so that they become completely

internalised by the child. Children should be able to apply their spellings to their own written work and not just in an isolated test. Spelling lists are stuck into the reading diary every Friday and the supporting spelling rule is set on Spelling Shed to support your child's spelling practice.

Times Tables

Children should learn their table facts (2, 5 and 10 for Year 2) as often as possible, through recall, counting up and back in that multiple and, when confident, learning any corresponding division facts. Every child in Year 2 has been registered onto Times Tables Rock Stars and will be given a login and password again so that they can practise their times tables at home. Children in Year 1 should focus on number fluency through Numbots.

Daily Reading

Your child will continue to bring home their phonics reading books to share with you. I would like to take this opportunity to stress how important it is that you read with your child for 10-15 minutes each day, then sign the reading diary and make any necessary comments. We check the diaries on a daily basis. It is very beneficial for your child to read to an adult regularly which will build their knowledge of different words and help them gain confidence with their reading. Please ensure that you discuss their understanding of the text. We have a regular reading raffle in school in which children who have been reading regularly at home are entered to win a book. We also have a class reading challenge where children gain certificates for their reading efforts and a prize at the end of each half term.

Snack

Year 1 and 2 children are provided with a healthy snack daily just before break time as this is funded by the government for all children in KS1.

As always, we believe in an 'open door policy', so please feel free to come into the classroom in the morning as the children settle into their morning task.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or questions.
Many thanks,

Miss Johnstone and Mrs Grabke
Squirrel Class