

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and managed to enjoy time with friends and family. The children have returned to school full of enthusiasm and confidence and are keen to learn and get back into our Year 1 routines. Despite continuing Covid restrictions, we are striving to give children the very best experience of school and provide them with a balanced curriculum. We have a busy term ahead of us which we're very much looking forward to.

Our cross curricular topic this term is '**To the Edge of the World**' as detailed on the curriculum poster overleaf. It has a strong historical focus as we compare the lives and achievements of Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong: two well-known explorers who lived in very different times, alongside others, such as Mae Jemison and Ernest Shackleton. We want the children to develop their enquiry skills - asking relevant questions and gathering information from different sources, such as books, pictures, films and the internet. We will also look at the legacy of these explorers and how they are perceived today. To help bring the topic to life, we have planned in an exciting adventure day later in the term, full of hands-on practical experiences. Details will follow shortly. If you know of anyone who has a job or hobby linked to our topic and might be willing to offer something to our curriculum, then please let us know.

Supporting your child at home:

Each child has a subscription for Spelling Shed and this term they will also start using Mathletics. Using these computer programs is a great way to support your child with their learning at home. Weekly spellings are uploaded onto Spelling Shed as well as tasks linked to your child's phonics, so this is an easy way for them to practise their spellings. Logins for both are in your child's homework book. Daily reading and enjoying books together are also an extremely important way that you can support your child's development.

Here are a few reminders about our everyday routines in Year 1:

- **The classroom is open from 08.45 a.m. and children are registered at 9.00 a.m.** Children have daily basic skills activities as soon as they arrive, followed by our phonics lesson. Please try and arrive promptly each day to make the most of this learning opportunity.
- We change reading books every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, but **books should be brought in every day** as we will try to hear children read whenever we have a spare few minutes. When you hear your child read, please ask questions and talk about the text with them, then sign their record book. *We will not change books unless parents have signed.*
- **Homework** is set on a Friday and needs to be returned the following Wednesday. We try to give homework that reflects and supports what we are learning in class with a balance of creative and more formal tasks. Whilst it can be tricky to establish a homework routine, many parents find that completing homework in regular bite size chunks makes it a more positive experience.
- Finally, please can we remind you to **label** all jumpers, coats, book bags, plimsolls, etc. We can't help to locate missing items unless they are named.

Please don't hesitate to come and chat to us if you have any questions or suggestions - we are always open to new ideas.

Many thanks,

Miss Lewis, Mrs Tamblyn and The Year 1 Team