

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all had a lovely Easter break and enjoyed the sunshine. As ever, it seems that the school year has flown by and we can't believe that this is our final term with your children. This is a truly remarkable Year 1 class. The children have a great attitude to learning - their enthusiasm, focus and progress is exceptional. We have enjoyed teaching them and this term we will be working hard to prepare them for the challenge of Year 2.

Our cross curricular theme is '**All Things Bright and Beautiful**' as detailed on the curriculum poster overleaf and has a strong scientific and geographical focus. We will be looking in more detail at the climate and landscapes of the tropical rainforests of South America, the Savannah grasslands and deserts of Africa and The Great Barrier Reef. As scientists, Year 1 will explore the diversity of plant and animal life within each contrasting habitat and learn about food chains and adaptation. We want the children to develop a sense of wonder at the incredible beauty and complexity of life on Earth, and begin to understand their role as protectors of the planet.

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. when the school gates open and our daily phonics lesson starts at 9.05 a.m. Children work on basic skills activities as soon as they arrive, so **please try to arrive promptly each day** so your child can make the most of this learning time.
- **Please read with your child as often as possible and sign their record book.** Children who make the most progress are reading and changing their books regularly.
- **Homework:** SpellingShed, MathsShed, Mathletics and 'Hit the Button' are all excellent online tools that your child can use regularly to support their basic maths and spelling skills and most children are loving the challenge (and the league tables!). Please ensure that homework books are returned by Wednesday each week so we can look at them and prepare the next tasks.
- 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