

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had a lovely holiday and are refreshed and ready to embrace 2024!

Our cross curricular theme this term is 'To the Edge of the World' as detailed on the curriculum poster overleaf. It has a strong historical focus. The key question we will be considering throughout the term is '*What does it mean to have courage?*' Children will consider this when they learn about the lives of significant individuals from history as well as considering this question in relation to their own lives. Children will learn about and compare the lives of Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong – two well-known explorers who lived in very different times. Children will also consider the contribution of Mae Jemison to modern day space travel. They will learn about Ernest Shackleton when studying our science unit on 'Animals Including Humans' and will learn about survival in cold environments. 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 will have an exciting 'Columbus' adventure day later this term, full of hands-on practical experiences. Details will follow shortly.

As you know, Year 2 is an important year in your child's education as it marks the end of their time in Key Stage 1. Please continue to support your child as much as possible at home. Daily reading, and regular practise of spellings and number facts benefit all children. Please use Mathletics and Spelling shed at home (logins are in the inside of homework books).

Here are a few reminders about our everyday routines in Year 2:

- The classroom is open from 08.45 a.m. and children are registered at 9.00 a.m. Children have a learning activity 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 Thursday 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.
- Homework is set on a Friday and needs to be returned the following Wednesday. I try to give homework that reflects and supports what we are learning in class with a balance of creative and more formal tasks.
- Finally, please can I remind you to label all jumpers, coats, book bags etc. We can't help to locate missing items unless they are named.

Please don't hesitate to come and chat to me if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Miss Field and Miss Haywood