

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school and Happy New Year! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break. We are keen to learn and get back into our Year 1 routines. 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. We want the children to develop their inquiry skills - asking relevant questions and gathering information from different sources, such as books, pictures, films and the internet. 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. **Please, please read with your child at home, it helps them more than you can imagine!**

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

- **The classroom is open from 08.35 a.m. and children are registered at 8.45 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.
- **Reading 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. 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. As ever we would be extremely grateful for any extra support with listening to children read or assisting generally. If you are available to help please inform a member of staff.

Many thanks,

Mrs Wills, Miss Coath, Mrs Ntioudi, Mrs Cook and Mrs Oliver