

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school. We hope you have had a restful Christmas and we wish you all a very Happy New Year! Thank you for all the lovely Christmas gifts and best wishes we received at the end of last term; it was very kind of you.

For those of you who don't already know Mrs Tyrka is now back from her maternity leave and is back in Byland teaching Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs Bennison will continue to do Thursday's and Friday's as she did previously, before the maternity leave.

Our **Topic** this term is Dinosaurs; we will focus on prehistoric animals and look at the work of the famous palaeontologist Mary Anning. The children's interests can hopefully guide us further on this exciting topic.

We will continue our work on animals in **Science** focusing on minibeasts. We will be making observations of them in their different habitats, learning about life cycles and we will design and make our own 'bug hotels'. The children will also continue to develop their scientific enquiry skills through using books and iPads for research, looking for patterns, and thinking about their own criteria for classifying minibeasts.

In **English**, we will be focusing on story writing; we will be looking at the structure of stories and then the children will plan and write their own story focusing on capital letters, sentence structure and character description. The Reception children will join in with our English work through making up and role playing their own stories. We will continue with our phonics work, learning lots of new sounds and using them in our writing of captions and short sentences. The new sounds and tricky words will be added to the children's sound books for practise at home.

In **Maths** we will be working on addition and subtraction within 20 using a variety of resources and methods. We will be thinking about how we can apply our knowledge to solve problems. We will then move onto place value work within 50. We will continue to develop our mental maths skills with Big Maths and mental arithmetic sessions using Mathletics. Please keep up the good maths work at home (don't forget to bring in your certificates to share on a Friday).

PE will be on a Friday afternoon for this half term and we will be working both in the hall and outside (weather permitting). Please ensure that the children have an indoor and warm outdoor PE kit in school at all times as this may change.

We are delighted to announce that this term the children will be taking part in Forest School sessions on Monday afternoons with Mr Houghton. The sessions will be held in all weathers on the school field, so please ensure that your child has suitable warm outdoor clothing including wellington boots as it is likely to be muddy. We will provide waterproofs.

In **RE** we will be learning about how and why we celebrate special and sacred times. We will identify some ways Christians celebrate Christmas, Easter and Harvest and some ways a festival is celebrated in another religion.

As always, if there is anything you wish to discuss about your child then please feel free to call in and speak to a member of the Byland team.

Mrs Bennison and Mrs Tyrka