

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school. We hope you have had a lovely half term break.

Our topic this term is **Home Sweet Home**. We will begin our topic by creating and studying maps of our school before moving onto learning about our local area. We will study aerial photographs of Thirsk and talk about the features of towns and cities. We will then compare the village of Sessay to an African village talking about similarities and differences.

Our **Science** topic is **Plants**. We will be looking at naming and categorising a wide range of plants. We will also do some investigations about the conditions needed for growth and we will grow our own plants. The Reception children will have access to planting activities in the outdoor area and will be encouraged to use vocabulary associated with this topic.

In **English** we will be focusing on Traditional Tales. We will talk about how these stories have been enjoyed for many years and passed down through the generations. We will be looking at the story language and structure of these stories and we will be using adjectives to describe the different characters and settings. The children will then plan and write their own Traditional Tale. The Reception children will be joining in with our work on Traditional Tales and will be acting out the stories and using their phonics knowledge to write about the different characters. They will continue with their phonics programme and new sounds and tricky words will be added to their sound books for practise at home.

In **Maths** we will begin with place value work before moving onto measurement. The children will learn how to measure length, height, mass, volume and time through lots of practical activities. We will continue with our mental maths work with Big Maths and mental arithmetic sessions using Mathletics. We will also be focusing on learning our times tables within these mental arithmetic sessions.

Please keep up the good maths work with Mathletics at home (don't forget to bring in your certificates to share on a Friday).

This term our **PE** sessions will move back to Thursday afternoon with our coach from Simon Carson's sports school. The sessions will take place both indoors and outside so please ensure your child has both an indoor and warm outdoor PE kit in school at all times as these sessions may vary. Please also ensure that each item is clearly labelled with your child's name.

In **RE** we will be looking at '**How do we show we care**'. The children will be able to share who cares for them and how we show we care too in our Christian faith. We will then be studying the Easter Story towards the end of the term.

Homework

Please continue to support your child at home with reading and spelling practise; it really makes a huge difference! Please let us know how your child gets on with their reading in their reading record. Spellings will be given out on a Friday and tested the following Friday.

Please can all children have a pair of wellies and a coat in school at all times; unfortunately we cannot allow children on the grass or in the mud kitchen in our outdoor area this time of year without wellies - it's very muddy!

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 Wells