

Dear Parents,

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

Our topic this term is **Our Wonderful World of Animals**. As part of this exciting topic, we will be looking at the life and work of James Herriot and we will be learning about farming in the past. We have re-scheduled our One Snowy Night trip to the 24th January; fingers crossed for better weather!

Our **Science** topic is **Animals including Humans**. We will begin by learning about body parts and senses and then we will move onto classifying animals using a range of different criteria.

In **English** we will be focusing on story telling. We will be looking at the structure of stories and thinking about adjectives to describe the different characters. The children will then plan and write their own stories. The Reception children will continue with their phonics work, learning lots of new sounds made up of two letters (digraphs) such as ai, ee and oi. These will be added to the children's sounds books for practise at home.

In **Maths** we will be working on addition and subtraction 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 and 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 Tuesday 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.

In **RE** we will be thinking about questions which puzzle us; the children will have the opportunity to think of their own 'mystery' or puzzling questions and share their own beliefs and ideas in simple ways. They will learn that some of their questions have no certain answers and people may have different answers and beliefs to them.

Forest School

This term the children will be taking part in Forest School sessions on Monday afternoons, commencing on Monday 21st January, 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).

Homework

Please continue to support your child at home with reading and spelling practise; it really makes a huge difference! 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