

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

Our **Topics** this term are **Land and Sea** followed by **Christmas!** We will be looking at world maps and locating and naming the oceans and continents. We will be learning about which animals can be found on the different continents to link in with our science work. We will incorporate some work on compass directions and learn about the famous local explorer Captain Cook.

Towards the end of the term, we will be looking at The Christmas Story and writing letters to Santa!

We will be studying the different **animal** categories in **Science** and we will be learning about which animals are herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. We will learn about different habitats to link in with our topic work.

In **English and Phonics** we will initially be focusing on Bonfire Night poetry. The Year 1 children will be applying their phonic knowledge and understanding of exclamation marks to write their own poems. Reception children will continue with their phonics work, learning lots of new single sounds then moving onto sounds which are made up of two letters (digraphs) such as 'ai', 'ee' and 'oi'. These will be added to the children's sound books for practise at home. Please ensure you read/practise sounds with your child as much as possible at home. Every little helps!

In **Maths** we will be working on subtraction to start with using a variety of resources to support us before moving on to shape. Please keep practising maths at home using *Mathletics*. This is an excellent tool to support your child's mathematical understanding and mental recall; please let us know if you have any trouble logging on and do print certificates to share on a Friday in our celebration assembly.

**PE** will continue to be on a Thursday afternoon with our coach from Simon Carson and the focus for this term is gymnastics. We will mainly be in the hall for gymnastics but we may have some extra PE sessions outside so please ensure that your child has both an indoor and warm outdoor PE kit in school at all times.

In **RE** we will be learning about *What makes some places sacred?* We will look at churches, mosques and temples.

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!

During this term we will be promoting independence in the classroom. Please try to encourage your child to come into the classroom independently and sort their own book bags and coats. Your support with this is very much appreciated.

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 ☺