



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.

Our **Topic** this term is Dinosaurs; we will focus on prehistoric animals and look at the work of the famous palaeontologist Mary Anning and start to think about chronology. The children's interests can hopefully guide us further on this exciting topic. We will make bones and Dinosaur eggs using clay so we can become real palaeontologists too!

In **Science** we will be looking at **Everyday Materials** such as wood, plastic, glass, metal and rock. We will be observing, comparing and sorting these different materials based on their physical properties and we will be thinking about why certain materials are used for particular purposes.

In **English** the Y1 children will learn how to add more detail to their writing with the use of adjectives and we will be thinking about where we use question and exclamation marks. We will also be learning the rules for using the suffixes *s* and *es* for plurals and *ed* for past tense. Our English work will be based around a class text linked to our current topic. The children will enjoy different activities such as character descriptions, writing letters to the characters in the story and acting the story out in small groups. In addition, there will be a daily phonics session where the children will learn alternative graphemes for a sound (ai can be written as ay and also using a split digraph a-e as in late) along with more tricky words.

The Reception children will continue with their phonics work and will also join in with the activities based around our class text. They will be learning lots of new tricky words and sounds which are made up of two letters (digraphs) such as *ch*, *sh* and *th* and these 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 then moving onto 50 using a variety of resources and methods. We will then move onto measure starting with length and height and moving onto weight and volume. 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).

The children will continue with their Forest School activities with Mr Houghton on a Monday afternoon. The children should bring with them warm outdoor clothing (joggers/ thicker socks) their school uniform on the top half is fine including coat and layers. Please provide a pair of named wellies to be worn for Forest School and for use in our outdoor area. Ideally, wellies should be left in school.

**PE** will continue to be on a Thursday and we will be working on skills including running, balancing, skipping and jumping. We will also begin learning about skills needed for attacking and defending games. We will be working both in the hall and outside (weather permitting). Please ensure that the children have a named indoor and warm outdoor PE kit in school at all times as this may change.

In **RE** we will be re-capping our learning on Christianity and will then move onto looking at the religion of Islam. We will be learning about the ways of life and beliefs of Muslim people.

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 😊