Dear Parent,

Welcome to the Spring Term. On behalf of all the staff, can I thank you all for your Christmas cards and kind gifts. They were much appreciated.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a list of dates for diaries, to let you know the topics that your child will be learning about during the term and to highlight a few key points.

**Staffing**

Just before Christmas, we were delighted to welcome Lindsey Pashley as a TA onto our team. She will be working some afternoons in class 2 and Thursday morning in class 1.

****Mrs Coldwell is still unable to come into school so we hope she feels better soon.

**Reading**

Since returning after Christmas, the staff and I are reviewing the teaching of the reading process in school. Staff have been looking at the reading books we have in school and a full audit is going to be carried out so we can see which reading stages require more/ updated books. As there is a limited budget, we will prioritise books we need to buy. One immediate change will be that children in F/Y1/Y2 will have two reading books- one for understanding/enjoyment as they do currently, and one which practises words containing the phonic sound they are learning in school that week. We have also tweaked the way we teach comprehension strategies by attaching each strategy to a character. These will be displayed on the information board outside the school office. We have moved the library and opened it up at break times so children can choose and enjoy books.

**Please can I reiterate the absolute vital importance of all children reading every night of the school week or thereabouts.** I understand how busy family life is but it is important that children have regular practise of reading and that they build their reading stamina.

We continue to take in reading diaries weekly, (Fridays- class 1 and Wednesdays- Class 2) and children receive stickers to reward their reading effort. After they have collected so many, they can choose a treat. We appreciate your continued support with this.

**World Book Day- Poetry March 5th**

 We have decided to crash poetry day and world book day together and have a poetry theme on world book day!

We will help all children to choose a poem/ nursery rhyme to learn by heart as it is a requirement of the curriculum that they can do this. They can choose whether they want to dress up on the day in order to recite their poem to the class or not. (Children may recite their poem to a friend or small groups if more appropriate). Further details will be available nearer the time.

**Curriculum topics this term**

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| **Foundation Stage/ Year 1**Children will continue to work independently. Over the term, we will be implementing baking and woodwork to our provision, equipping the children with the skills to have a go at these activities as part of their daily learning. Y1 children are learning to design, plan and evaluate their projects and record them in a book.  |
| **Year 2/3- Class 1*** Skills Builder focus skills: Problem Solving & Creativity
* Arctic Explorers
* Transport
* Personal projects- week beginning 16th March
* Easter
* Forces & Magnetism
* Researching & Presenting Skills- ICT

Y3 will join class 2 for weekly PE sessions, French (hopefully!) science (Wednesday afternoons) and a short ‘Wizard of Oz’ project in preparation for going to the theatre.  |
| **Y4,5,6*** Newspaper reports, descriptive and persuasive writing
* Wizard of Oz
* Anglo Saxons and Vikings
* Personal projects- week beginning 16th March
* Easter
* Skills Builder focus skills: Problem Solving & Creativity
* French- ‘Fruit’ & ‘Sport’
* Forces & Magnetism
* Researching & Presenting Skills- ICT
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| **All children:*** We have organised a forensic science day to mark national science day. All children will take part in a workshop throughout the day- 11th March.
* Children in Class 1 and 2 will run a ‘Pancake Café’ to mark Shrove Tuesday. This will involve assigning roles in each class to set up a café, produce decorations, ballot views to determine a menu, buy ingredients, prepare the pancakes, cook them, serve them and each ‘family table’ will have to work out the bill and pay for it. Real life role- play so it should be fun!
* Prior to Christmas, we introduced children learning to cook weekly with Mrs Colley in the kitchen. Children in class 2 worked in small groups each Monday to cook and prepare the school lunch menu for the following day. It was very popular as not only do the children learn to cook real meals, they are learning a host of skills. So children in class 1 are taking a turn this term. Y1 children will also have a turn in term 3.
* All children had a talk with the NSPCC about keeping themselves safe.
* All children will continue to have PE on Fridays. Y3-6 are having a session of keep fit and net/wall games whilst Y1/2 are having a yoga session and games skills sessions.
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**Clubs:** Clubs during the term so far, will be Premier Sport- Fridays, Dance Elite- Wednesdays. A group of children continue to learn knitting during Golden Time on Thursday afternoons. I am in the process of contacting a craft person to see if we can have an after school craft club too.

**Please can you check that your child has their jumpers and PE tops named. We are gathering a collection for the charity shop!!**

**Have you let us know if your mobile phone number has changed???**

**Does anyone have any time spare during the week to listen to children read?**

**Dates for Diaries**

**Thursday January 23rd**:Y3-6 visit to see ‘The Wizard of Oz’

**Friday 24th January:** Y5 visit to Sherburn High School accompanied by Miss Benson. The bus is

 collecting them at 8.55am.

 Chinese New Year Lunch.

**Wednesday 29th January**: First After school dance club. 3.40-4.40pm.

**Friday 31st January:** Y2 Sports Festival at Holy Family High School, 10am-11.45. The children will be

 accompanied by Miss Hutchinson.

**Tuesday 4th February**: Y5 visit to De Lacey Academy accompanied by Miss Benson. 12-2.15pm.

**Wednesday 5th February:** Y5/6trip to Leeds Assett Management with Mr Wynne and Mrs Lickley. The

 purpose of this visit is to experience a working environment. Further details will

 follow.

**Tuesday 11th February**: Class two visit to Yorvik Viking Centre.

**Wednesday 12th February**: EC & MW talk with Y6 parents about SAT’s.

**Thursday 13th February:** Valentine’s Lunch & Valentine’s disco at the Community Centre. 6.30-8pm.

**Friday 14th February:** School Closes for half term.

**Monday 24th February**: School Opens.

**Tuesday 25th February**: Children in class 1 and 2 will be opening a ‘Pancake café’ for the day.

**Thursday 5th March:** World Book day- Poetry theme. See additional information.

**Wednesday 11th March**: Whole School Forensic Science workshop in school.

**Friday 13th March**: Sports Relief Day.

**Thursday 19th March:** Mother’s Day lunch- day 1. (12-1pm)

**Friday 20th March**: Mother’s Day Lunch- day 2. (12-1pm)

**Friday 3rd April:** School closes for Easter holidays. Re-opens **Tuesday 21st April.**