

**Dear Parents and Guardians**

**September 4th 2018**

I hope you have all had a good summer break.

This year there are some changes to the teachers working with the children in Taw Class. On a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning Mr. Parsons will be teaching Taw. On Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday the class will be taught by Mrs Rogers. This is a job share meaning both teachers are equally responsible for the teaching of the class. It is a new development for Taw class and we are both looking forward to working in this way.

There are also some changes to the level of support the class will receive from a teaching assistant. Mrs Burridge will continue to work with the preschool children on a Tuesday and Friday morning. She will be used as a support for the whole class on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. This may change if the times of the preschool children change. There is no specific TA cover in Taw class in the afternoons; Mrs Cook will support children where needed, across both classes. The class will continue to have PE support from Achieve 4 All on a Tuesday afternoon and Ms Collins will continue to teach music to the class on a Wednesday morning.

Our class topic this term will be **transport and journeys**. Much of the work the children do will reflect this. In Literacy, many of the books the children will use in class as a basis for writing will be ones with a theme around journeys and modes of transport. In Science the class will be investigating materials-different types and why we use them for particular tasks. In Geography they will be mapping their own journeys to school and learn about physical and human features of the landscape. They will then look at some longer journeys that animals take during migration which will involve identifying the continents around the world. In DT the children will attempt to design and create their own moving vehicle and will also design and make a healthy snack linked to Harvest celebrations. After half term they will study History and be investigating how transport has changed over the years and will learn about some famous journeys. In Art and Design they will be developing their creative minds by learning about a range of artists and exploring a range of materials to create works of art, including making a hot air balloon and sculpture. PE this term will be a combination of multi skills, team games and gymnastics delivered by Achieve 4 All.

In RE we will be continuing with the curriculum materials called Understanding Christianity. Our focus this term will be what we can learn from the Gospels in The New Testament. We will also look at some of the major festivals of celebration including: Harvest, Diwali and of course Christmas!

***You may have books at home –fiction or non-fiction- with some of our topics as part of their content. Sharing these with children is a good way to develop their own reading and listening skills.***

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have read with your children over the holiday. ***Reading with your children is one of the most important ways you can support their learning in Reception/Key Stage 1.*** As a parent/carer it is an expectation that you will hear your child read, or read with them, at least four times a week. It really makes a huge difference if reading regularly takes place at home. Please make a note of this in the reading diary. Your comments are relevant at whatever level your child is currently reading at. The class have new targets in their reading diaries so any comments around these are particularly useful. We are grateful to Mrs Hervin who will be continuing as a volunteer supporting reading on a Monday morning.

Home Learning this term will focus on spelling, handwriting, the number system and counting in groups. Key Stage 1 will have a Home Learning book with activities linked to current or future work. We will aim to send work home on Fridays starting next week. The children in year 1 and 2 also each have a spelling book with either the first 100 or next 200 high frequency and tricky words in. They also have a little blue book where we practise spelling rules, such as adding a prefix or suffix, or particular words like days of the week or months of the year. These will also be sent home sometimes.

At any point before and after school we are available if you have anything you would like to talk about regarding your child in Taw class.

We are all looking forward to another rewarding year working with the children and you in Taw class.

**Phil Parsons**

**Stacey Rogers**

**Denise Burridge**