

## Dear Parents and Guardians

3rd September 2019

We 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 and Tuesday Mr. Parsons will be teaching Taw. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday the class will be taught by Mrs Phillips. This is a job share meaning both teachers are responsible for the teaching of the class. We are both looking forward to working in this way. Mrs Burridge will work with the preschool children on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. She will be used as a support for the whole class on Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings. This may change if the times of the preschool children change. The class will continue to have PE support from Achieve 4 All on a Tuesday afternoon this half term and Ms. Collins will continue to teach music to the class on a Wednesday morning.

Our class topic this term will be **Special Days and Celebrations**. 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 celebrations such as birthdays or national celebrations. In Maths the children will be consolidating their understanding of place value before moving onto calculations. They will be encouraged to apply their maths knowledge through problem solving and explaining how they know an answer.

In Science this term the class will be investigating materials-the different types, their properties and how we use them. They will also look at different aspects of the seasons. In Geography they will be exploring London and some of the geographical and physical features found there, creating maps and planning an imaginary trip. After half term they will celebrate Remembrance Day and the voyage of the Mayflower. In Art and Design the class will explore printmaking techniques and build model boats.

In music the class will be working on pulse, rhythm, percussion and drama exploring celebrations and festivals where appropriate. PE this term will be a combination of multi skills and team games. Forest school will start again after October half term. We will be consolidating our tree identification skills and making personalised leaf identification charts. We will be continuing to observe changes in our environment with the seasons and looking at hedgehogs and hibernation

and making Spider web catchers. We will be having a Robin Hood week – making bows and arrow and coins. We will be continuing to use tools such as hand saws, pen knives and peelers for the younger ones, as well as building on fire lighting skills, having our own campfire and cooking.

In RE we will be embarking on a brand new curriculum. The Devon and Torbay Agreed Syllabus. Our first topic from it will be ‘How should we care for others and the world and why does it matter?’ We will also look at some of the major festivals of celebration including this term including: Harvest, Hanukkah, Divali 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.***

A note about show and tell.

In Taw class we believe the morning show and tell time is important for developing the speaking and listening skills of children. We always let the reception children bring in toys for the first two weeks as part of their settling in process. Pre-school children are welcome to bring in any object that they would like share with the class. Also there may be a child in class who we allow to bring in toys as part of their own learning plan. However for all year 1 and year 2 children we do ask that children bring in objects that are topic related or linked to other parts of the curriculum including their own achievements outside of school.

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 Pre-school/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.

**Home Learning** this half term will focus on spelling, handwriting, number and reading. Reception and 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 2 also each have a spelling book with either the first 100 and 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.

Both myself, Rosy and Denise are looking forward to another rewarding year working with the children and you in Taw class.

**Phil Parsons**

**Rosy Phillips**

**Denise Burridge**