

Dear Parents and carers

Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope you had a magical Christmas break with your little ones. This term our topic will be 'Polar Regions' and we are really looking forward to learning all about the animals that live in both the Arctic and the Antarctic, Winter, what is it like to go on a Polar Expedition and many more exciting activities.

As children are now fully settled into our classroom routine and school life, we would like to encourage them to come into the classroom independently in the mornings, no parents in the cloak room anymore please! ☺

Winter Weather and PE

Please ensure your child has a labelled warm coat, hat and gloves in school every day, as they get cold very quickly when on the playground. Please keep sending them in with a labelled water bottle, which is always accessible for them in the trolley in the cloakroom.

It would be greatly appreciated if you encourage your child to do their coat up independently, as this is very helpful for their independence and motor skills.

Please ensure that your child's PE Kit is **FULLY labelled** and should consist of: **House coloured t-shirt** (either red, blue, yellow or green), jumper, shorts, and **tracksuit bottoms**, daps/ trainers, socks and a spare pair of pants

Phonics

This term we will be consolidating phase 2 phonics and the first 2 sets of phase 3 which finishes the alphabet.

Homework

Children will be taking home a Phonics Book, which will include all the phonemes (sounds) taught in phase 2 and 3 in Reception. These will be stuck on the inside of the book. They will also receive a list of words they need to learn to read using their phonics knowledge or by sight (Common exception words). They will only receive a new list once they have learned all the words in the previous list. Please also practise writing the spelling of the word in the page behind, to practise their handwriting. Mathematics homework will be sent out every other week in their normal homework book.

We still expect you to read at least 3 times a week which will give you the opportunity to practise their phonics and reading skills. They will continue to bring a book of their choice from our book area and remember to write a comment in the reading record about their reading. Their phonetically decodable book will only be changed by us once they are secure with the blending of the words.

Dates for your diary:

Open Morning and Learning Journal share: Tuesday 9th Jan (Reading Focus)
Last Day of Term 9th Feb

Finally, please remember that my door is always open and if you have any questions please feel free to pop in and ask.

Thank you for your continued support.
Mrs Ambrose and the Early Years Team.