



*St Francis of Assisi Voluntary Aided
Church of England Primary School*

“Live, love and learn together in the light of Christ.”

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I would like to take this opportunity firstly to thank you all for the cards and Christmas presents you sent in for me, Mrs Murali and Mrs Taylor last term: your cards and gifts were very thoughtful and very much appreciated – thank you!

This term will be a very busy one in school with lots to pack as you will be able to see from the Topic Overview on the reverse of this letter. If you are able to help with any of the topic work we are about to begin, please see me. This term will be crammed full of learning, however there will be plenty of time for fun and extra-curricular activities such as our forthcoming trip to Robinwood and sports competitions. I will also be endeavouring to spend some time working on the children’s self-esteem and confidence as we approach their tests and transitions to secondary school. In school, we are being very optimistic about everything the children will be facing over the coming months and we are discussing the positive aspects of what they will be experiencing – please try to maintain this positivity at home so that children see their futures as encouraging and exciting prospects!

As a whole school, we are beginning a huge focus on handwriting. We have high expectations of neat, legible and joined handwriting using the style which children have been taught in school. I am sending home a sheet which details the formation of each individual letter. I will be encouraging children to use this formation for their letters and to use a joined style with all of their writing – this is an important aspect of the expectations for Year 6 pupils in their Writing objectives.

Thank you for all of your support with your child’s home learning last term – some children have been handing in homework of a very high standard and have been using the subscribed apps and online games really well at home! As a reminder, we subscribe to Times Tables Rockstars and Reading Plus. Your child is able to access both of these at home and they have their own user names and passwords for them (they should see me if they have forgotten them). We have also subscribed over Christmas to Spelling Shed – more details of how your child can use this at home to follow. I also recommend the Spelling Frame website, with which the children are familiar, DB Primary, Prodigy Maths and Topmarks.

This term, I will begin some after school booster sessions for Reading and Maths – more information will follow. I may begin sending home some sample SATs papers to try at home as part of homework – I will send instructions with these so that it is clear whether the children should complete them independently or with adult support, and the length of time they should spend on them. As ever, your support with hearing your child read, supporting with homework and spellings and your encouragement of the use of online learning tools is vital. Please, please ensure your child records what they have read in their Homework Diary (Reading Record) when they have read at home to themselves or to an adult. Some children are not writing in these at all, so it looks as though they are not reading anything.

Once again, please do not hesitate to see me if you have concerns or worries about your child at school. My school email address is frmdavies@sbcschools.org.uk - I do endeavour to reply to emails as quickly as possible. As a reminder, if you have not yet signed up to Marvellous Me, please could you do this as soon as possible so that I can begin using the app to send messages about your child’s wonderful work in class!

Thank you for your continuing support,
Mrs M Davies

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