

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to welcome you and your child back after our lovely Christmas break; I wish you all a very happy new year and hope you enjoyed the holidays. We had a fantastic start to the year last term and I'm looking forward to another very successful term. In November we welcomed Miss Nicholson, who is currently training to be a teacher, into Base 2 on Tuesdays and she will be helping us in class with our learning.

Our Learning Journey for this term is based around two texts; *The Storm Whale in Winter*, Benji Davies and *Sea of Dreams*, Dennis Nolan. Alongside these texts we will be utilising a range of other quality texts to support our writing. Our overarching theme in school for Spring term is Water, with Base 2 focussing on oceans and seas. Therefore, we will be exploring different aspects of the oceans and seas including learning about many different animals. Please see the termly plan for an overview of some of the learning we will undertake. If you feel you can contribute towards our Learning Journey in any way (artefacts / books / photos, support in class with a particular skill etc.) it would be warmly welcomed.

Expectations

My expectations remain as high as they did last year for the children; they need to continue to be independent and responsible for their own learning. I will challenge and support your child in their learning, but will expect your child to do their very best and contribute positively to our class so that we all have a very rewarding and successful year. It is really important that we work together to help your child succeed both personally and academically.

Arrival at school

We want 100% attendance in Base 2!! Good attendance is necessary for good progress. Please ensure your child arrives between **8:45 and 8:55am** ready to start the day. Morning activities (Maths and Literacy based), which consolidate or challenge the children's learning, are set up for this time in readiness for registration of the class by 9am and a smooth transition into the literacy lesson.

Monies and messages

All monies and messages **MUST** come into school with your child and placed in the plastic wallet to assist Mrs Rowlands in the office at the start of the day. **It is important for the children to bring monies and messages in for themselves to help them become responsible and independent.**

Outdoor clothing

As the weather is much colder at the moment, please ensure appropriate clothing is in school; in particular, a warm/waterproof **coat** should be brought/worn to school every day.

Snack

Snack will be available for Mrs Warner at break times each day, but if your child wants to bring a snack from home please ensure that it is a **healthy snack** as we are promoting healthy living.

Base 2 Timetable

Our timetable will remain the same for this term, with PE with Mrs Scott (Sportscape) and Mrs Clarke teaching RE on Wednesday afternoon.

PE

PE kits (red top, black shorts/trousers, trainers, jumper) must be in school on a Tuesday and Wednesday for our PE lessons. PE kits should then be taken home to be washed over the weekend and brought back into school on Monday. There may be opportunities during our Learning Journey lessons for additional PE sessions so **PE kits need to be in school all week**. The children will be reminded that it is their responsibility to make sure PE kits are in school. PE lessons will be outdoors and indoors.

Homework

This term homework will be linked to our learning to ensure we have a good understanding of different concepts; this will be sent home on a Friday due back in school the following Friday. There may be weeks where homework is not set if we have had a busy week in school or I want the children to focus on their reading, spelling and times tables. It is important for children to complete homework as it all contributes to their overall learning.

- **Times Tables – every day**
To be practised at least 5 times throughout the week before the test.
- **Spellings -Test day Thursday**
To be practised 5 times throughout the week before the test.
- **Daily Reading**
Reading should be done daily, for at least 15 minutes, with comments written in the reading record.

Key Dates:

- **Tuesday 15th January – Cinema Visit**
- **Tuesday 28th January - Sharing Afternoon**

Open door

My door is always open and I am always very happy to help should you have any concerns, wish to share information that is relevant to your child's well-being or require additional information regarding your child and their learning or progress. I will be on the door every morning or you can arrange a time to meet with me at a time that is convenient for the both of us.

I am very much looking forward to another fantastic term with Base 2 and learning about our exciting new topic.

Kind regards,

Miss Phillips