



Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break, and both you and the children are feeling rested and ready for the New Year. We are very much looking forward to welcoming back the Doves to our new topic: 'A World of Pure Imagination'. We are going to begin the year by exploring Pieter Bruegel the Elder's *Hunters in the Snow* as a stimulus for our writing and moving on to immersing ourselves in two of Dahl's classics: *The BFG* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. The children will be learning about seasonal food in Design and Technology, growing plants in Science and also exploring where in the world their food comes from in Geography – including the history of how chocolate came to the UK – a vital part of their education! We would be very grateful if anyone has any house plants they could donate to Doves for our Science experiments this term – however, they may not all survive their visits so please don't send in any future RHS Chelsea Flower Show contenders.



#### PE (Monday) and Forest School (Friday)

This is a wonderful half term for outdoor learning for the Doves. For this half term only, it is their turn to have Forest School with Mrs Rumney on **Friday afternoons**, which means they will have PE with Luke every **Monday afternoon** while I will be teaching the Robins. During Spring 1, the children will be playing netball and football and during Spring 2, they will be learning gymnastics and multi-skills. Please could the children come to school in their **PE kit on Monday** and their **Forest School kit on a Friday** – wearing trainers into school and bringing wellies (in a named bag) to change into.

#### Reading

I really enjoyed hearing all the children read at the end of last term. They have made so much progress since September and I am very grateful to you for making the time to listen to them so regularly – it really does make such a difference! We will restart counting the Nights of Reading from Tuesday and are looking forward to having a little celebration when all the Doves reach 100 nights. Mrs C-C's challenge remains at an impressive 250 nights by the end of the year and I am delighted to see that so many children are on track for it. As a reminder, books will be continued to be changed for children who are on the phonics scheme or gold or white level on Mondays and Thursdays.

#### Handwriting

I have been delighted with how the children's handwriting has improved since starting to learn the cursive letter formation. Our next step is to start to learn the different letter joins. I have attached a copy of the cursive alphabet we will be using at Semley from Year 1 upwards for your information. We are aiming to have covered all the letter joins by the end of the spring term.

#### Maths

We are beginning this year with a unit on money for our year 2s. As part of this, we will be role playing shops in class. If at all possible, please could you take your child/children to the shops to buy a little something with some cash and encourage them to work out how much change they will receive before they pay. We will be working with amounts to 50p and £1 as well as notes so low cost items would be perfect. Our year 3s will be continuing their work on multiplication and division. We will also be spending time each day practising our times tables. The Year 3 children will be starting to learn their 3 times tables and the Year 2s will be starting to learn their 5 times tables. I have attached copies of these booklets for anyone who wishes to do a little extra practise at home.

Finally, I have enclosed a curriculum map which outlines all the key learning objectives we will be covering this term. If you have any questions about it or any other concerns then please don't hesitate to speak to me.

With best wishes to you all,

Vicky Gambier