



Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a magical Christmas with your families. Thank you so much for all my Christmas wishes, cards and gifts. I was really touched by your kind words and generosity.

This term our topic is called Eco-Heroes with a geography focus on protecting our Wonderful World. We are going to conduct investigations into Climate Change and carry out field work in Semley. We will be heading outdoors and undoubtedly getting muddy feet - sometimes in our school grounds and sometimes around the village. Our first adventure is going to be on the school field, which is currently a quagmire. To save their shoes, please could the children bring wellies in for **Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of January**. Further welly dates will follow.

During their geography lessons, the children will be learning about the oceans and continents. If you have any photos of your child at an interesting location around the world, we would love to see them!

#### Phonics and Spellings

This term the year 2 children will continue their daily UL&S phonics sessions but the year 3s will start their spelling sessions. The children will be given a sheet with their spellings each week on a Monday and will be tested on the following week. It is up to you how you choose to help them practice their spellings, but this is a great opportunity for them to practice their joined up handwriting if they copy the words on the sheets. The children will be writing their answers in a small yellow book which will be kept in their book bags so you can see how they get on each week. The children will have time to practise their spellings at school in a variety of different ways: learning the rule, handwriting, physical games, dictation exercises and word games. Hopefully, they will find another way that helps them learn. We will try and make these sessions as fun as possible for the children but as these spellings follow the year group rules, some children will find learning the words challenging. If that is the case for your child, please can you focus on learning the first five words only. Any problems, please do come and see me for a chat.

#### ART

We are going to be exploring natural sculptures this term with a focus on bird nests. If you could start to collect sticks, felt offcuts, wool, fabric scraps, newspaper and wire, I would very much appreciate the contributions. We will also be heading to Roche Court for our school trip after half term – more details to follow soon!

As always, it is going to be an action packed term! The children will continue to have Coach Luke on a Monday afternoon for their PE sessions, Mrs Rayner will be teaching in Doves as normal on a Friday morning and Science this half term will be expertly taught by Mrs Miles. I have enclosed a curriculum map for this term which outlines all the key learning objectives we will be covering. If you have any questions about it or anything else, please stop for a chat at the start or the end of the day.

With best wishes to you and your families for 2024,

Vicky Gambier