



7 January 2009

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the Spring term which I hope will be exciting, stimulating and challenging for your child. Most of all I want it to be a happy term for the children, so please don't hesitate to talk to me about any concerns you may have.

**Literacy** will be predominantly linked to the topic we are covering at the time – for the first half of the term we will be continuing our topic on Mountains. This will be followed by a topic on theatres and will be linked to the Humanities and the arts. Within these topics, the children will cover a genre of texts and writing styles. These will include reports, stories, play scripts, persuasive writing and poetry.

Spellings will continue to be given out on a Friday and the children will be assessed the following Friday. Guided reading will be undertaken regularly. The children will bring home a reading book from school and are expected to read at least 4 times a week at home. They will be rewarded for this in the form of stickers, which contribute to their merit cards. I am loathe to mention the SATS at this stage, but they are looming, and any reading your child does, will help prepare them for not only the reading paper, but also the writing paper, for they will learn how sentences are constructed and will be exposed to new vocabulary which will help extend their literary skills.

**Mathematics** will focus on number work, shape and measure and data handling. This will be linked to our topic when appropriate.

Our **Science** topic for the first part of the term is 'materials' where the children will use their knowledge of solids, liquids & gases to decide how mixtures might be separated. They will also learn how to recover dissolved solids by evaporating the liquid from the solution. The second half of the term will focus on light and sound, to link in with our topic on theatres.

**RE** will focus on Sikhism and will be taught by Mrs Packard.

**PHSE** will link in with our 'rivers' topic and the children will be considering their lives as a journey, discussing important milestones in their lives and changes (emotionally and physically) that are inevitable along the way.

In **PE** the children will be focusing on extending the dance they choreographed with Michael Platt last term. This too, links in with our 'rivers' topic and will culminate in a dance performance at a PE conference at Trinity Park, Ipswich after half term. Details of this will follow. The second half of the term will focus on invasion games and gymnastics.

If your child has pierced ears please ensure that earrings are either removed or covered with tape on PE days. PE will take place on a Monday and a Wednesday. Please ensure your child has a PE kit in school on these days.

The **Humanities, Arts** and **D&T** will be linked in with our topics. The children will have opportunities for research and be able to demonstrate their learning in different ways.

**Homework** will be sent home on a weekly basis, on Friday, for completion by the following Wednesday. Homework handed in after this day will not be marked and your child will be asked to stay in at lunch time to complete it. If your child finds any aspect of the homework tricky, I would appreciate it if you could let me know.

We encourage children to take regular small drinks of water during the day as this has been shown to be of great benefit both to children's health and their powers of concentration. Water (not juice or squash) should be brought in a named plastic bottle and will be available at regular intervals throughout the day. Drinks of squash or juice should be for lunchtimes only.

Just to remind you that SATS are compulsory so please make sure that you do not book any holidays during the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Julie Rivers