



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all. We hope you had a wonderful break, and your batteries are fully recharged after consuming many festive treats!

The next two terms will involve lots of hard work, with lots of fun along the way. The children have made some superb progress already this year, and we are incredibly proud of what they have achieved so far.

Thank you to all who have consistently brought their home-school link books in to school, and many in the class have been rewarded as termly star readers which is an excellent achievement. We would like to see even more children achieving this, so do please encourage your child to make at least four reading entries each week.

Home-school link books are checked every Monday and Thursday morning. If you have written a note or comment in on any other day, the children know that they are to leave their book out for us to see. We will always try to respond to anything either with a phone call or a written response. Please catch either of us first thing in the morning or at the end of the day if you wish to speak to us in person.

Homework will continue to be sent out every Thursday and is expected back the following Tuesday. Please encourage your child to complete their homework to the best of their ability. Effort is always rewarded and it has been a pleasure to mark some of the books over the last two terms.

Science

Over the term we will be learning to become 'Classification Connoisseurs' through our work on Living Things. The children will learn about Carl Linneaus and about his system of classification. They will play an odd one out game and identify similarities and differences between animals, micro-organisms and plant classifications. We will use sweets to create a sweet classification system and design and test our own classification keys. We will use our English skills to write descriptions of unusual animals and to design and create 'new' creatures.



Humanities

We will begin our work close to home with a local history study of Wonderful Witney and, in particular, the history of Witney Blankets. We will learn about the importance of blankets to the history of Witney and about the remaining buildings that were connected with the industry. Maintaining our woolly theme, we will travel to New Zealand to learn about the world's 4th greatest producer of wool. We will be learning about geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography. We will use eight points of a compass, four and six figure grid references, symbols and keys to build upon our knowledge.



PE

The children will participate in PE twice a week. It is important they have the correct PE kit in school and that all jewellery is removed. This term our focus will be gymnastics; the children will work in partners to develop their skills and link them in a sequence of movements, with the aim being to show as much control and precision as possible. As part of our work about New Zealand we will be trying our hand at learning the traditional Maori war dance (Hakka) which will be familiar to all our rugby enthusiasts!



Our residential trip to the Pioneer Centre in Shropshire will be the perfect opportunity for the children to develop their Outdoor and Adventurous skills through the various activities and team challenges they will participate in throughout the week.

RE

We will be considering the question 'Is anything ever eternal?' by thinking about the things that we think will last forever. We will learn to evaluate different beliefs about eternity and to understand the Christian perspective on this. We will be aided in our learning by Gudrun Owl who will be on hand to help answer any questions the children may have.



Dates for your diary:

Monday 5th February - IMPS trip (letter to follow)

Monday 12th to Friday 16th March - Pioneer Centre, Shropshire

Monday 14th to Thursday 17th May - SATs Week

In the absence of a school trip to New Zealand, we would be very grateful if you have any photographs, objects, guide books or anything else that we could use this term to help our learning. Similarly, if you have a Witney blanket or anything connected to the Witney Blanket industry we would be extremely pleased to hear from you.

Should you have any concerns or queries over the next two terms, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Very best wishes

Mrs Harris, Mrs Panter and Mrs Newcombe

