

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely time over Christmas and the New Year. It is the spring term and we have a great new topic called 'Off on a Journey'. This is kick started with the adventures of the 'Naughty Bus' by Jan and Jerry Oke. Already the bus has been up to its tricks leaving tyre tracks around the classroom! We will also be learning about Chinese New Year and hope to sample some Chinese foods. If you have any concerns or questions about this please let us know. Please see the attached mind map for more information about what we will be learning in the coming weeks.

The children will have PE on a Monday afternoon this half term, so please make sure they have their kit including pumps or trainers in school. Many thanks.

Welly walks are also continuing on a Wednesday and as the weather is making the Dumbles muddier, please can you make sure the children have wellies and waterproof trousers where possible.

The reading challenge is going well with some children managing to reach over 100 reads! Amazing! Thank you so much for your help and support, it really makes a big difference. Children will now receive a certificate asap after achieving a mile stone and a duplicate copy will be given in Achievement Assembly. It was felt this is the best way for the younger children to receive recognition for their hard work, rather than waiting up to a couple of months for the special assembly.

We have completed an overhaul of the reading books and have a new system in place to help allocate appropriate books. All books have been levelled through the lower book bands to match the children's progress through phonics. As we have books from many different schemes this was a difficult task! We have tried to order books so that children get a good spread of using their phonics to decode words and also sight vocabulary/repetition for tricky words. This means some books may seem easier through the book bands, when in reality they are challenging the children in different ways. As always, our door is always open if you need any support or have questions about reading at home.

Please can you continue to write Wow moment slips for your children. This really helps us find out about what the children can do outside of school and makes a great assessment of the whole child.

Advance Warning: As with last term, Parents' Evening will follow the same key worker format this term. Mrs Swinburne's key worker children will have their parents' evening on Wednesday 7th February and Mrs Lorimer's will be on Tuesday 13th February. If you cannot make the key worker date, please speak to the teacher who will arrange an after school appointment on another day.

Finally, a big thank you to all those parents and grandparents who come and help us in school; we really appreciate all you do and please know it makes a huge difference in the children's learning opportunities. THANK YOU! If anyone has any spare time and would like to come and volunteer you would be most welcome.

Kind regards

The Willow Team

