

## Dear Parents and Guardians

5th January 2018

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a great Christmas break.

Our class topic this term will be **Pets and Working Animals**. Much of the work the children do will reflect this. In literacy many of the books the children will use in class as a basis for writing will be ones with a theme around pets or animals that help us such as sheep dogs. In maths we will cover the following: time; place value; graphs (year 2 only); money; multiplication; division; fractions; length and height.

In science we will be continuing to make observations of seasonal changes. Within our new science topic we will be recognizing how animals are classified. We will also be considering ways in which animals are suited to different environments and life purposes. We will also look at how we care for our own pets at home. In history and geography we will be studying the similarities and differences between animals that humans treat as pets and those that are considered working animals. We will be considering how technological changes in farming and the wider industry have changed the role of working animals over time.

In art and design we will be studying a variety of works by Franz Marx, and making our own artistic representations of animals, using various mediums, including: drawing, painting, collage and sculptures. In music the class will be looking at music with animals in. Classical stories including Carnival of the animals by the French romantic composer Camille Saint-Saëns and Peter and the Wolf by Sergei Prokofiev. The class will also be using percussion instruments and singing action songs. PE this term will be a combination of multi skills and team games.

In RE we will be continuing with the new curriculum materials called Understanding Christianity as we study The Creation. We will also look at aspects of Easter towards the end of the term.

***You may have books at home –fiction or non-fiction- with some of our topics as part of their content. Sharing these with children is a good way to develop their own reading and listening skills.***

### A note about show and tell.

In Taw class we believe the morning show and tell time is important for developing the speaking and listening skills of all children. We always let the reception children bring in toys for the first two weeks as part of their settling in process. Also there may be a child in class who we allow to bring in toys as part of their own learning plan. However for all year 1 and year 2 we do ask that children bring in objects that are topic related or linked to other parts of the curriculum including their own achievements outside of school.

I will be not be in the class on a Wednesday and the children will continue to be taught by Mrs Mitchell. She will be teaching Phonics, Science, Geography, History and Art and Design during this term. On a Thursday the children will continue to have a music lesson in the morning taught by Ms. Collins. Forest school sessions will take place for Taw class again next term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have read with your children over the Christmas holiday. ***Reading with your children is one of the most important ways you can support their learning in Reception/Key Stage 1.*** As a parent/carer it is an expectation that you will hear your child read, or read with them, at least four times a week. It really makes a huge difference if reading regularly takes place at home. Please make a note of this in the reading diary. Your comments are relevant at whatever level your child is currently reading at.

Home Learning this term will focus on spelling, handwriting, telling the time, times tables (year 2) and reading. We will aim to send work home on Fridays starting next week. The children in year 1 and 2 also each have a spelling book with either the first 100 or next 200 high frequency and tricky words in. These will also be sent home sometimes. We will test the spellings in school.

At any point before and after school I am available if you have anything you would like to talk about regarding your child in Taw class.

Both myself and Jo are looking forward to another rewarding year working with the children and you in Taw class.

**Phil Parsons**

**Jo Dennis**