Spring 1 Term 2017

Dear parents and carers,

Happy New Year to you all, and welcome back! Thank you so much for all the kind comments, cards and Christmas gifts - they were really appreciated. (Although I am blaming you all for the extra kilos I seem to have put on over the festive period!)

The children have settled in really well and we have been hard at work talking about our new topic ‘Dragons and Castles’! We have discussed what we already know, and what we would like to know. We are hoping to visit a castle in the coming weeks, and will finish off with a banquet and jousting tournament! You may have noticed a rather unexpected event in our outdoor classroom - an egg seems to have been laid there! We will be caring for this egg and are all rather excited to see what will hatch.

PE will now be on MONDAYS and TUESDAYS. Please ensure your child brings their PE kit to school on Monday, and keeps it on their peg until Friday. Occasionally our busy schedule means we need to change our PE slot, so it is important their kit is available to them all week.

Despite the colder weather, we still intend to use our outdoor classroom and the enchanted wood for our learning. Therefore, please may I ask you to send a pair of wellies to school with your child. We have a few spare pairs, but not enough for everyone. Any cast offs will be greatly received!

Homework will continue to be sent home on Fridays and expected in the following Wednesday. Reading books will go home every day with the expectation that every child reads to an adult for 5 minutes a day. Research has
long shown the impact this has on a child’s attainment, in all areas of the curriculum! There will be daily phonics worksheets in addition, and I have now created a sheet of ‘Elmer Words’ which will be kept in the children’s Reading Records. This is a list of the sight words the children are expected to learn. Please take a moment with your child to practise reading these words. When they have been successful three times in a row and collected 3 ticks, they can colour in the patch containing that word. I know this can all seem rather daunting in terms of time and energy, for both children and adults! However, I understand all too well the stresses of busy family life, so please do not worry if occasionally it goes by the wayside. Above all, have fun being involved in your child’s learning - there are so many ways to do this as well as homework!

As we are continuing to foster independence and a sense of responsibility in the children, may I kindly ask that Year 1 children now enter the building by themselves and arrange their belongings, as they know how. Foundation children may still be accompanied into the cloakroom by their grown-ups at this stage. Home School Records should be placed in the yellow tray every day, and reading books and records stay in book bags which are kept in the children's drawers. Thank you to the many parents who have named their child’s belongings; if you have not already done so, please do – biro on the washing label is perfectly fine. It makes things so much easier! Any lost property will be placed in the box in the cloakroom next to the lunch box bucket.

If for any reason you need to speak to us, please do not hesitate to call us over. If you need to speak to us at greater length about any concerns you have, you are more than welcome to make an appointment.

Thanking you for your continued support.

Miss Bannister, Mrs Denton and Miss Ferrara-Mather.