Dear Parents,

We hope you have had a restful and enjoyable Easter break and we welcome you back to an exciting and busy summer term! The year is racing away, and with just eleven weeks in the summer term - and so much to pack into them - we are going to be very busy! Lovely to see the children looking so refreshed and re-energised, ready for a new term!

### Year 1 & 2 themes for the Summer term:

Over the summer term the children in Year 1 and 2 will be studying a range of topics. These topics are: Amazing Animals (Year 2), Dinosaurs, Pirates (Year 1) and Summer. Within these topics, the children will be looking at a range of subjects such as: Science, Geography, Art, History and Music. The children have both a busy and an important term ahead of them!

The pupils have produced some good work so far. Year 1 pupils have enjoyed learning about the many different types of Dinosaurs, what they eat and the process of extinction! In year 2 the children have been exploring various animals and their babies. They have explored animal groups, reproduction and life cycles! Some of us even got to witness a baby chick hatch from its shell, which was very EGGciting!

---

**Year 1 & 2 visit to St Thomas’ Church**

Last term ended with a special Easter Service at St Thomas’ church and it was a particularly special occasion. Reverend Chris was extremely welcoming and did an excellent job at engaging the children with Easter. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were very grateful to have been a part of the Easter experience. A special thank you to Reverend Chris for making our visit truly memorable and inspiring!

---

**Dates for your Diary....**

- 8th - 19th May - Year 2 SATs
- 12th May - Emily’s Day (wear pink)
- 29th May - 2nd June - Half-Term
- 12th June - Year 1 Phonic Screening
- 16th June - Year 2 Trip
- 23rd June - Year 1 Trip
- 10th June - Summer Fete
- 20th June - KS1 Sports Day
- 5th July - Transition Day (children spend the morning in their new class)
- 5th July - Parent open evening (meet your child’s new teacher)
- 10th July - Governor’s Awards (Year 2 & 6)
- 12th July - Year 2 swimming induction
- 13th July - Toy Day (end of term)

“*The beautiful spring came; and when nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also.*”

Harriet Ann Jacobs

---

Please ensure your child has a hat at school to shield them from the sun and a water bottle to keep them fully hydrated!!
**Year 2 Secret Agent Tasks**

The children in Year 2 will complete some very important tasks over the upcoming weeks. The children have been working very hard in class to practise and perfect the key skills they need to demonstrate in Reading and Maths. Please make sure your child completes all homework activities as they will consist of practise material. Thank you for helping your child improve their chances of achieving their very best! Attendance is essential!

*Please send your child in to school with a (named) water bottle so they can have plenty of water throughout the day. The weather is becoming increasingly warm so we encourage children to drink more.

*Please ensure your child brings in their P.E. kit to school. Please check that your child’s uniform and P.E. kit is all labelled with your child’s name very clearly.

**Phonic Screening Week**

Children in Year 1 throughout the country will all be taking part in a phonic screening check during the second week in June. Children in Year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required result when in Year 1 or they have not taken the test before.

**How Can I Help My Child at Home?**

- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise – get them to have a ‘good guess’.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each one, e.g. /c/ in cat, /p/ in pat, /ng/ in sing, /ee/ in been.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.

**Toilet Hygiene!**

There has been an increasing number of children that do not practise good personal hygiene when using the toilet. Please remind children to treat school toilets like their personal ones at home and to remember to wash their hands after every visit!

**Maths Matters!! Top Tips:**

Encourage children to **play maths puzzles and games** at home. Anything with a dice will help them enjoy maths and develop numeracy and logic skills. Never tell children they are wrong when they are working on maths problems. There is always some logic to what they are doing.

1. **Don't tell your children you were bad at maths at school.** Or that you disliked it. This is especially important if you are a mother.

2. **Encourage number sense.** What separates high and low achievers in primary school is number sense.

3. **Encourage a “growth mindset”** - the idea that ability changes as you work more and learn more. Research shows that children really need to work on ‘number sense’ - the understanding of what a number means and how numbers can be made up. Number sense is not something you can get from simply being given an extra worksheet for homework - it develops from play, discussion and observation of number in the world around them.

Thank you for your support, Mrs Issa & the Key stage 1 Team ☺