A very Happy New Year to you all! We hope you have had an enjoyable Christmas break and we welcome you back to an exciting and busy spring term! The children have had a very successful start to 2017 with some outstanding learning, which is always pleasing to see. Thank you for ensuring that your children have been well-prepared for the start of their new term.

The weather is frightfully cold and snow is expected in the next few days. Any school closures will be notified via a text message and will also be posted onto the school website, via the school twitter account and also the local radio station – ‘Radio Leicester’. So if in doubt check any of the above.

Our talented little stars...

The Key Stage 1 Christmas performance is ‘the most wonderful time of the year’ and the children work very hard to put on a show. A special thank you to all the dedicated adults and hard-working children for putting on a spectacular performance. You delighted us all and made us very proud!

“Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties.” Helen Keller

Possible dates for your Diary....

6th & 8th February - Parents Evening
9th February - Internet Safety Talk
13th - 17th February - Half-Term
2nd March - World Book Day
16th March - Class Photographs
21st March - Maths Parent Morning
5th April - Infant Disco
10th - 21st April - Easter Break

Please ensure your child has a warm coat, hat, scarf and gloves to keep them well insulated in the bitter cold!

Please ensure that book bags with reading books and reading diaries are brought in every day. Please also remember to hand in homework on time.

If your child would like toast, then please remember to send your child with the correct amount in a sealed envelope to avoid pennies from getting lost!
New Year, New Resolutions!
It’s always a good idea to remind everyone of good habits at the start of a new year, so we can all help each other to make things run smoothly at the beginning and end of the day:

- Please park considerately.
- Avoid parking on pavements, near dropped kerbs and over driveways.
- Please make sure you set off in good time for school.
- Please make sure children ride bikes and scooters carefully to and from school, always with a helmet and never on the school site (dismount at the gate!).

Internet Safety..
Lots of our children have told us that they have received new game consoles and devices from Santa! Please remember that it is important to put parental controls on all internet-enabled devices and to talk to children about safe use of devices and the internet. Maybe the new year is a good opportunity to discuss an internet-use agreement for your family? (Mr Tuckwell has resolved to switch off devices at least an hour before sleep! 😊)

Read, Read, Read!
Reading aloud with an adult is important! Even if your child is a fluent reader, having a discussion about the story (for example, the characters’ personalities and actions, the ‘wow words’ used by the author) is a valuable way to develop reading skills.

All children in Key Stage 1 have reading books and are heard regularly at school. It will help your child’s progress if you could also hear them read (daily if possible). Also any counting, and number games will help them, as well as phonic and spelling games.

Phonics Fun!
The children in Year 1 will undergo a Phonics Screening Test in June. Please make sure your child reads as much as possible and practises their phonicss! Games are a great way to reinforce this-Play ‘What do we have in here?’ Put some toys or objects in a bag and pull one out at a time. Emphasise the first sound of the name of the toy or object by repeating it, for example, ‘c c c c - car’, ‘b b b b - box’, ‘ch ch ch - chip’. Say: ‘A tall tin of tomatoes! ’Tommy, the ticklish teddy!’ ‘A lovely little lemon!’ This is called alliteration. Use names, for example, ‘Gregory gets the giggles’, ‘Milo makes music’, ‘Noddy’s nose’. Advice about the Phonics Screening will be sent out very soon! Remember Practise makes perfect!

A special CONGRATULATIONS to all the children in Year 2 that have been chosen to have their poems published in a special Poetry book. How EXCITING!!
We look forward to yet another fun and exciting term.
Thank you for your ongoing support and continued co-operation!

Mrs Issa & the Key Stage 1 Team 😊

**Year 1 & 2 themes for the Spring term:**
Over the next couple of weeks the children in Year 1 and 2 will be studying a range of topics. These topics are: Winter, Toys, Journeys, Farming and Electricity. 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!

**Year 2 Secret Agent Tasks:**
In May the children in Year 2 will sit some very important Secret Agent Tasks. Please find below some Top Tips that will help prepare your child for these important tasks:

1. **Read as much as possible at home** - have your child read to you and share reading books together. Talk to them about what they read, about plot, character, what the author is achieving.
2. **Use everyday activities to help them develop their maths skills** - trips to the supermarket, for example, can be packed full of opportunities for problem-solving and calculation practice.
3. **Last, but most certainly not least, play!** Playing is how children learn; it’s not instead of studying, it is studying. Set up a little toy shop where they can buy objects or work out change; have fun playing with traditional nursery rhymes or making up fun, silly rhymes together; make a water or sand tray where they can learn about measures and capacity. The best learning occurs when children are relaxed and happy, so never feel that play and school work are separate - they’re entirely, intrinsically linked.

**Key Stage 1 Clubs:**

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<th>Monday</th>
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<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Daily</th>
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<td>Football Club: 3.15p.m – 4.15p.m. Open to Years 1, 2 and 3. (Limited numbers and there is a cost for this club).</td>
<td>Lunchtimes Years 2 &amp; 6.</td>
<td>Multi-Sports: 3.15p.m – 4.15p.m. Open to Years 1 – 6. (Limited numbers and there is a cost for this club).</td>
<td>Breakfast club (all year groups) – 7.45-8.45am. It offers cereal/toast and a drink for £2.50 a day. Please contact the office or Miss Rojahn if you are interested.</td>
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**Daily**
- **Breakfast club** that will run daily in the Chester building 3.15 – 6.00 p.m. Please speak to the office if you would like to book your child a place. Please note there will be a cost to this service.

We look forward to yet another fun and exciting term.
Thank you for your ongoing support and continued co-operation!

Mrs Issa & the Key Stage 1 Team 😊

Remember to log onto Mathletics!!