Welcome back! We have had a great start to the year and the pupils have settled back into school life well. We have lots of exciting learning planned for this year and the staff are working hard to adapt our curriculum to make it engaging and relevant. The new knowledge organisers have been sent out to families and we hope that you like the chance to have more information about what your child is learning in class.

You will see today our new style homework which will support our daily learning. To enable families to have a better home life and homework balance, we have removed much of the weekly homework expectation and replaced it with a half-termly timescale so weekends away and other activities can be done without the homework battle! We would love feedback on this, whether it be positive or with suggestions for improvement, so speak to your class teacher with your thoughts and we will see if we can improve it further.

This year our priority focus is on our new curriculum and making the most of every minute as an enriching learning opportunity so there will be some changes to the usual school calendar. We are finalising key dates and these will be sent out in next week’s update so please look out for these.

**Sweets and other birthday treats!**
It has been a tradition in the past that when a birthday occurs sweets or other items are brought into school as a treat. This is a lovely thing to do but it is becoming more difficult to teachers to manage, particularly for children who would not usually have them. In addition, we have children who are intolerant to some of the ingredients. We therefore politely ask that you do not send in any sweets or chocolate. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

**Nursery**
Nursery children have had a super start to the term and have all settled in really well. We have been singing lots of nursery rhymes and have had fun getting messy in the mud kitchen and exploring our learning environment. Don't forget to bring a coat every day and a spare pair of wellies for our outdoor learning.

**Reception**
We are very proud of the Reception children as they have settled into the Reception unit calmly and are learning the routines very quickly. We have been busy exploring all the different areas we can work in, both inside and outside. Today we talked about the Springmead Way - please ask them about it.
We would like to invite you to join us every Friday afternoon for a Reading Retreat. Please join us at 2.45pm where you will engage with your child in reading. This will involve sitting with your child in the classroom or in the school library reading and sharing a variety of books. Reading is such an important part of your child's development. In the school library you will be able to choose a book with your child to take home. We really hope you will be able to join us every Friday. Please enter the Reception unit via the door in Maple Class (next to the school office).

Year 1
The children have settled into Year 1 really well and are enjoying their new learning. We have really enjoyed starting our Dinosaur Planet unit. The children have learnt about Tyrannosaurus Drip and they are beginning to write sentences using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. In our DT project will be making Sockasurus puppets. Can you please make sure your child brings in some old socks by Friday 20th September.

Our library day is Monday, please ensure that library books are in your child's book bags every Monday.

In Maths we are learning our number bonds to 10 and counting up to 20.

Year 2
Year 2 have settled into their new classrooms and routines very well. We have begun our topic 'Muck, Mess and Mixtures' and spent some time outside exploring different mixtures using our senses. It was very messy! In English we have been reading a book called 'The Disgusting Sandwich'. We went outside and made our own disgusting sandwich with leaves, sticks and grass. After that we wrote a recount of our adventure with a sandwich! In Maths we have been learning place value of two digit numbers.

Year 3
On Thursday 12th September, Year 3 had a fantastic Stone Age day visiting Celtic Harmony Camp. We made Stone Age pots, arrow heads, visited a Stone Age house, listened to a traditional story and made some bread. We will be using our visit to write a set of instructions in our English work. We had a lovely day and all of the children and staff really enjoyed it.

Years 4 and 5
We have all settled in well to our new classrooms. We have been enjoying learning about the oceans, in our Blue Abyss topics, and especially liked getting arty with the paint to create an underwater scene. A few of us have forgotten our PE kit so please remind us to bring it to school for next week.

Year 6
We have had a settled start to the year in our new classes. For our Theme Learning, we have been learning about the unique characteristics of human’s fingerprints - did you know Koala’s also have fingerprints like humans? We have also started experimenting using pencils to shade and drawing our own eyes focusing on their individual characteristics.
We have also learnt about inherited and acquired characteristics and created our own Mr. Men and Little Miss characters. In Guided Reading, we have been reading Sherlock Holmes and practising our own detective skills to see if we can work out how he will solve the crime

**Always Club**

This will start next week!