Happy New Year!!

We would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a 'Happy New Year'.

Last half term was a busy one, with children really enjoying our 'North America' topic as well as sewing, creating amazing CAM toys and making Christmas decorations for the school.

English
The children really enjoyed focusing on the books 'Varjak Paw' last half term and we were extremely lucky to have received a tweet from the author wanting to see our children's work (though it is clear Mrs Stirzaker needs to learn to tweet better!)

This half term we are focusing on the book "Who Let the God's Out." We have enjoyed many laughs whilst reading this book. If your child has enjoyed the book, they may wish to read the sequel "Simply the Quest."

Maths
Maths will continue to be taught in sets with the following teachers and teaching assistants:

- Miss Ward—set 1
- Mrs Stirzaker—set 2
- Mr Murray & Mrs Jones—set 3
- Ms Foord—set 4

Work this half term will include:

- Multiplication and Division
- Fractions
- Decimals
- Percentages
- Arithmetic Tests

Dates for Your Diary
Please look out for dates and events in the school weekly Newsletter.

Whole School at Church:
Wednesday 14th February

Parents Evening:
13th February
15th February

Growing Gains:
17th January
31st January
14th February

Work will be taking place in the garden. It would be advised for the children to have warm, outdoor clothing in school as well as suitable footwear if possible.

Equipment:
The children should start lessons ready to learn. Therefore they need to have their equipment in working order e.g. a suitable pencil (regular size, nothing attached to the top), a pencil sharpened and ready to use and a ruler.

Homework
(Maths and English) continues to be set on Fridays and needs to be signed and returned by the following Wednesday. Spellings are also sent home on a Friday and tested weekly.

Reading Books
Children should continue to take home reading books regularly and be writing quality comments in their diaries in order to gain merits. Children need to make sure they bring their reading books in to school everyday.
This half term our topic is Ancient Greece. The children will be looking at Greek life, their achievements and their influence on the Western World.

In art, children will be designing and making their own printed pattern and sketching Greek artefacts!

In computing the children will be using Scratch to create their own animation.

The PE focus this half term will be gymnastics and Tag Rugby.

As part of the science curriculum we will be looking at the changes of human development and comparing this to animals.

**Anything else?**

**Growing Gains Project** As part of the Healthy School Standard we will be continuing this growing and eating project for the Year 5 classes. Mr Reeve, from the organisation will deliver fortnightly sessions for each class. These sessions will take place in the classroom as well as outside in the allotment so appropriate outdoor clothing will be required (coat and sometimes wellington boots). At the end of the school year, the children have a finale day, where they will be able to pick, cook and eat some of the produce they have grown. This project has been running at St Laurence for several years now and has been a major success for all!

**Spellings** will continue to be sent out and tested on Fridays and children will be encouraged to practise these whenever possible. Three sentences should also be completed as part of homework.

We look forward to seeing you on Parents’ Evening, though if you have any queries or concerns before then, please come and see us.

**The Year 5 Team**