Welcome back! We hope that you all had a fun-filled festive holiday. Thank you so much for the generous gifts and cards that we received last term. They were much appreciated and we were very touched by your care and thought.

We have an exciting term ahead, including performing with Kestrels in our Spring production! I have detailed, below, a summary of this term’s curricular content. Swimming will re-start 9 January. We continue to need help walking the class to and from the pool; thank you for all the assistance you give in this regard. A reminder — please read with your child for at least 10 minutes daily, practise number facts as often as possible, and sign your child’s homework diary every week.

*Mrs Sheridan, Mrs Lyne, Mrs Sharkey, Ms Taylor and the rest of the team*

**English**
We will study non-chronological reports, focusing on London and thinking about the presentation and organisation of their writing. With Mrs Lyne, the children will be inspired by Roald Dahl, using his texts to write in various genres and carry out an author study. We will also be looking at playscripts, which will link to our Spring production.

**Computing**
We will continue to develop programming skills through the use of ‘Scratch’. We will also be looking at branching databases, which will link with our science topic, ‘Rocks’.

**PSHE/RRS/Philosophy for children**
The children will be celebrating their achievements and setting goals, as well as discussing questions arising from their own ideas. They will discuss the lives of people with different values and customs and they will also consider the benefits of saving and looking after money.

**Enabling Enterprise**
We will continue to use the 8 Challenge skills during our Challenge Day, ‘Moon Exploration’, and other lessons.

**Maths**
Mental maths will be centred around the learning of the 3, 4, and 8 times tables, revision of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables and on-going recall of addition and subtraction facts. We will be making links with these facts in a variety of contexts to help develop numeracy skills. Also, we will be studying fractions and measurement of length.

**History/Geography**
We will be learning about the Ancient Islamic Civilisation of Baghdad followed by lessons about the geography of the United Kingdom, focusing on natural features. If anyone thinks they may have resources to support this work, we would greatly appreciate using them in class!

**Science**
We will be studying the topic of ‘Rocks’, followed by ‘Light and Shadows’. We will continue to develop the skills of planning and carrying out investigations, questioning and making predictions. We will also focus on evaluating experiments and drawing conclusions, related, when possible, to everyday life.

**Art/DT**
In Art, we will explore various themes, with a focus on Light and Shadows, through the media of pencil, pen and paints. We will also create tile patterns inspired by Ancient Baghdad. DT will be linked to our EE Challenge Day.

**PE**
We will be learning dance and hockey skills. The children will need both indoor and outdoor PE kits. Also, we will continue with swimming lessons.

**RS/RE/Music**
In RE, we will learn about the Bible, its content and structure, as well as some of the ceremonies and principles of Islam. In music, we will be developing our singing and knowledge of the 8 elements of music. We will be preparing for our Spring production, learning a variety of songs.

**Français**
Children will be exploring the patterns and sounds of language through songs and games, and learning about fruits. We will continue our with our French partner school.

### Homework

**Maths and English**
Children will be given maths and English homework on either Tuesdays or Wednesdays, to be handed by the following Monday. This may be in the form of a grammar or writing focus, game or investigation. If they find it too easy, they have learnt how to extend themselves, and will be expected to. Please ensure that they have completed their homework to the best of their ability.

**Spelling**
Lists will be based on weekly learning objectives. They will need to practise these spellings using the strategies in their yellow spelling folders. Please check that they have copied the words correctly and if they need to work on high frequency words that they regularly have difficulty spelling, then they can practise these as well.

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**Important**

The children must hand in their homework diaries on Fridays but need to have them in class every day. You may also use it to contact me with any concerns or queries—let your child know that I need to see it. Their usernames and passwords for Mathletics and Times Table Rock Stars are stuck onto the inside front cover of their diaries.

Please ensure that your child has a PE kit in school at all times, and particularly in these colder months: a dark blue outdoor tracksuit is preferred for outdoor PE. Additionally, send your child to school with a plastic water bottle, with a sports lid.