Welcome back! I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break and New Year!

Firstly, on behalf of myself and my colleagues, we would like to extend a huge and heartfelt thank you for the generous presents we received! We were all extremely grateful and humbled - I had a particularly enjoyable shopping day, all thanks to your generosity!

Thank you, also, to everyone for supporting all of the events and activities of the last term. We would particularly like to say thank you for your support of our Christmas Concert. I am sure you will agree your children did brilliantly and I expect that now you have seen their singing potential, your excitement is now heightened for the Royal Albert Hall Performance, as is ours!

Since the beginning of this academic year I have noticed a great development in the children’s motivation for tackling harder challenges, their resilience in the face of ‘getting it wrong’ and in their overall conscientiousness. This is nowhere more evident than in their levels of presentation in their workbooks. As a school this year, it has been a focus of ours to improve the children’s handwriting and neat layout of their work and the differences I can see is quite impressive! This responsiveness and maturity, along with the children’s kind and happy characters, has made for a hugely enjoyable Autumn Term and I cannot wait to get started with the Spring Term!

I look forward to seeing you all at the Parent’s Evenings, later in the term (see dates for the term) but if, in the meantime, you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me.

Mrs Cullen

For your information, the topics that we will be studying this term are as follows:

**English:** Film narratives; Poetry: Choral and performance; Novels and stories by significant children’s authors; Information Texts

**Mathematics:** Multiplication and Division; Fractions; decimals and percentages

**Science:** Forces; Earth and Space

**Computing:** Programming; Blogging; Animation (linked to English)

**Geography:** Rivers including geographical features

**Art/DT:** Artist focus, linked to topic on Rivers (David Hockney)

**Music:** Dancing in the Street (Motown) – composition; Thames Tales; Holst Planet Suite; 2Compose (Space);

**PSHE:** Managing Risks; Economic Awareness (sessions with Metro Bank)

**RE:** Islam – Worship, Festivals and Practice; Judaism in the home

**French:** Stories; Making sentences; Monet

**PE:** Monday: Dance; Rounders Tuesday: Basketball; Tag Rugby (outdoor kit essential)

---

**Staffing**

Mrs. Cullen – Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

Mrs. Greer – (Tuesday Session 2 & pm) 
Madame. Sharkey - (Tuesday Session 1) 
Miss. Lambert – shared TA with Doves
**Homework:**
Overall, the children have been fantastic about completing homework tasks. Thank you for encouraging them in this endeavor. As a reminder;

**Reading:** Please encourage your child to read on a daily basis. Please use the children’s’ homework diaries to record what they read and how long for, as much as possible.

**Spellings:** These are given out on a weekly basis (Monday) and tested in school. The words chosen come from taught spelling patterns and the Year 5 Spelling word list. The children should practice these using any of the methods they choose, from the back of their spelling folders.

**Maths homework:** This is given out on a Monday, to be returned on Thursday.

**English homework:** This is given out on Thursday, to be returned the following Monday.

**Spring Term Project:** The Spring Term project will be based upon aspects of Earth and Space. We will discuss possible lines of enquiry and interests that the children may have, in class, and then set a date for the projects to be completed by.

**Further Information:**

**Children as Learners**
As a school, and as a class, we positively undertake a growth mindset and encourage the children to think about the learning they have gained from the process of completing an activity, instead of simply focusing on the outcome of the answer. That is, we celebrate effort, learning from mistakes, getting stuck and knowing/using strategies for getting “un-stuck”. Each week, the children keep a learning diary to reflect on their learning journey. Can I encourage you to ask them about their learning by asking questions such as, “What did you learn today?”, “What did you get stuck on today?” and “What mistakes did you learn from today?”

**Multiplication Facts**
It would be great if this term you could help us further by supporting your child in learning his/her multiplication tables a division facts, which we will be undertaking later in the term.

**Stationary in School**
Please could we remind you that it is extremely beneficial for the children to have a glue stick, ruler, pencil and red pen in school. We do not allow scented or ‘smelly’ pens or pencils, as they cause much distraction and disappointment if they get lost or damaged. However, the children are welcome to bring in a few coloured pencils, felt tips and gel pens, to keep in their trays or bags.

**Thames Tales:**
As you will see from the list of diary dates, preparations for this ‘once in a life-time experience’ are coming at us more regularly this term. In order to help the children learn the songs, a website has been set up by Merton Music Foundation. This can be accessed via the MMF website (https://mmf.org.uk/royal-albert-hall-resources-for-school/). The password is fatherthames.

Tickets will go on sale from the RAH box office in early January. We will send further details once we have them.

And finally, here is some advance warning of dates for later in the Summer term: 22nd May – Year 5 Assembly, 5th June – Year 5 trip to the Science Museum, 1st July – Year 5 Trip to the Magic Circle.