January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you and your children have all had an enjoyable Christmas holiday and a great start to the New Year! We are really looking forward to seeing them all again.

**Reception Parents**

Our topic for the first half of the term is ‘**What is a hero**?’ For this topic, we will learn about real-life heroes and fictional heroes. We will immerse ourselves into fantasy worlds and make up our own stories and characters. We will read a range of traditional tales and discuss which are our favourites. One of the books that we will be reading is ‘Super Milly and the Super School Day’. The Harmony Project principle that we will be learning about is **Adaptation**.

For the second half of the spring term, our topic will be **‘Mini-beasts and Mega-beasts’.** We will enter an amazing micro-world of tiny creatures! We will look closely at the different types of mini-beasts we find here and in other parts of the world. We will then step cautiously into the past … to the time of the dinosaurs! We will begin to understand why dinosaurs were classified as herbivores, omnivores and carnivores and will learn some of their names. We will learn about Mary Anning and her important finds. This topic will link to our fourth Harmony Principle of **Health**. We will learn about what being healthy mean, what we can do to be more healthy and what transport we can use to promote this.

If you feel that either of these topics are of particular interest to you, and you would like to share some of your knowledge or experience with the children, please get in touch. The children love meeting new people and learning about the world outside of their classroom!

On Tuesday afternoons, reception children will have science lessons with Mrs Langford instead of forest school. As the children really thrived during their forest school sessions, we aim to carry on their outdoor learning. Please continue to send the children’s forest school kits on Tuesday afternoons - just waterproofs/puddle-suits and welly boots (a full change of clothes will not be necessary.)

The Reception children will be doing **PE** on **Monday** (gymnastics) and **Thursday** (gross motor skills). Please make sure your child has their PE kit in school for this day. We also ask that you dress them in appropriate school uniform on these days, for example if they struggle with buttons please use a polo top, not a shirt or blouse, so they can be as independent as possible. Please make sure all of their PE kit is named.

**Year 1 Parents**

Every afternoon, the Year 1 children will continue to be together in the Bumble Bee Class with Mrs De-La-Hunty. We hope that this will help the children to continue their growing friendships with their peers. This also means that the Year 1 and 2 children will all do the same class assembly, so please make sure you check the diary dates sheet and attend on the correct date.

Topic lessons for the Year 1 children will be taught by Mrs De-La-Hunty in Bumble Bee class. This half-term they will be learning about the **Weather**. Their Harmony Project theme will be **The Principle of the Cycle.**

Year 1 will be having their **swimming lessons** on **Fridays** for the whole of the spring term (until Easter). We will be travelling by coach to Bridport Leisure Centre. Please ensure you send your child with their swimming kit on Fridays. They will also be having **PE lessons** on **Wednesdays** so please send them into school wearing their kits on Wednesday mornings.

On Tuesday afternoons, Year 1 children will be taking part in **forest school** sessions with Juliet Hendry, who is a trained forest school leader. They will be spending the afternoon outside (and most likely getting muddy!) so please send in puddle-suits or waterproofs and welly boots.

**To All Robin Class Parents**

As we are truly in winter now, please ensure your child has appropriate clothing to wear to school. The playground is exposed and can get very windy and cold so warm coats are essential. Hats and gloves are a great idea, especially on colder days.

We have uploaded a homework grid which is linked to our first topic in the ‘Documents’ section of Tapestry. Please upload photos or videos by the 3rd February.

Our classroom will look quite different when the children return. We have considered our resources alongside the needs and interests of the children and hope that the new layout will encourage the children to engage more with their surroundings.

We look forward to another fantastic term with your children.

Kind Regards,

The Robin Team

Mrs Thomson, Mrs Langford, Mrs Murray, Mrs Dodson-House and Mrs Brown