



Happy New Year and welcome back everyone!

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed some quality family time!

This term our topics are "Our Wonderful World" and "Jolly Journeys". We will be learning about our local area as well as some other exciting places in the world whilst developing our mapping skills and geographic knowledge and vocabulary. We will also be exploring various festivals across the world and celebrating our unique differences as well as the similarities we share within communities. We start off by reading "Celebrations Around the World" before diving into the classic book, "Town Mouse, Country Mouse", where we will take a journey around Kedington to find out all the village has to offer! Within the topics, we will consider what we can do to make the world a better place by learning about reusing and recycling!

People in Our Community

To help develop our understanding of the world and our community we would like to know if any of our parents/grandparents/family members have any interesting jobs that focus on helping the community in some way which they could come in and tell us about this term. Are you a doctor or a police officer? Do you help at a food bank or work at a vet? A dentist? Nurse? Please send us a Dojo message if you can come and help and we can practise our questioning skills with you!

Writing

Within the next few weeks, China class will have learnt every letter in the alphabet and how to form them correctly. Their handwriting size and shape has come on so much and we are really impressed with the super start they have had. Most children are confident with writing their names and CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words so this term we will see them having a go at CVCC and CCVC words and putting them into simple sentences. We are beginning to introduce the concept of capital letters at the start of a sentence and finger spaces to make sure their beautiful writing can be read by others as well as a full stop to show the sentence is complete.

Every child is unique and it is important we allow children to develop their writing skills as and when they are ready. Therefore, we will monitor your child closely and support or challenge them accordingly in this area.

Uniform

As lots of children have grown over the holiday please ensure that any new items of clothing are **named, including shoes**. Any that are lost and do not have a name on them can be picked up from the lost property box in the hall.

Forest School Fridays

Forest School will continue on Friday afternoons. It will be a wet and cold term so please make sure your child has everything they need – there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing!

Buddy System

The buddy system has given the children an excellent start to the year and because they have done so well we are going to start to slowly reduce the support they receive. Only some designated buddies will support during lunch time and outside play.

Phonics

The children are really settled and confident with their phonics lessons and continue to thrive in their reading and writing. This term we are starting to learn digraphs (two letters that spell one sound) and will be having a go with sentence dictation. We will continue to send home books that match their phonics teaching so please ensure you are reading these regularly throughout the week and recording it in your learning log – daily is ideal. **Reading is one of the most important things you can do with your child so please ensure you find a time in the day to add it in to your routine.** If you have any questions about the phonics teaching or new terminology, please feel free to ask!

Communication

We value communication between parents and teachers and think it makes such a difference to your child's time here. Please let us know if there is anything your child is struggling with or really enjoying at home so we can build upon this. We can have a catch up at the end of the day or communicate through Dojo, although **please remember that if your child is absent then the school office will need to be contacted.**

Home Learning

We will continue with the Special Box and Book of the Week which the children love. Homework will be sent out towards the end of the week and will often consist of a phonics hand out as well as additional tasks now linked to maths or our HFWs (High Frequency Words). **Please make sure you are logging on to Showbie each week and sending us photos and videos of your child showing how amazing they are!** It also helps us to target areas for improvement with specific children as well as the larger group. We know that all families have differing and busy routines throughout the week, but please find a time that works best for you and your child to complete the home learning – the progress they make with these consolidation tasks is so much better. Please let me know if you are struggling to complete the home learning, and I will do my best to support you.

Mathematics

This term we are extending our counting forwards and backwards to 20 and beyond as well as deepening our understanding of numbers within 10. We will be talking more about one more and one less than numbers and how to make numbers in different ways. We will have an extra focus on bonds to five and ten as this is something they need to be confident in by the end of the year (i.e. number bonds to 5 are 0+5, 1+4, 2+3, 3+2, 4+1, 5+0). It will be important to continue to practise the correct formation of numbers as they begin to do more recording, so **please ensure you are using the laminated sheet which was sent home.**