



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a fantastic Christmas; I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for the cards, gifts and good wishes that you so kindly gave at the end of last term! There will be a lot going on this term and this letter outlines some of the things that will be happening in Maple Class.

This term we will again be following a range of mini topics. Our first topic will be about 'Amazing Africa'. Within this, we will be looking at the African landscape in comparison to West Dean, researching how African tribes live and finding out about a variety of African Animals! Later on in the term we will be completing work linking to 'The Lost Words' book which will see us take our learning outside. Maths lessons will be taught discretely, though will link to the topic where appropriate. Literacy will be woven in amongst whatever the focus of the topic might be.

The children will be visiting Marwell Zoo this term on **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January**. More information about this will follow in due course.

#### Shoes, Wellies and PE Kits

Our PE days this term will be Thursday and Friday, so please ensure PE bags are in school and stay for the whole half term. I will send PE bags home every half term. Additionally, every child needs to have trainers and wellies in school for outside play.

#### Reading

The children will continue to participate in a guided reading group ('Book Club') every week. It is really important that you continue to read with your child as much as possible! 5-10 minutes a day will be very valuable. Please record any reading in your child's 'Home/School Diary'. Our library time will continue to be on a Monday and a Tuesday so please ensure that your child brings in their books to be changed.

#### Targets

I will be reviewing last term's targets and setting their new targets this week. These targets are taken directly from the Year Two curriculum expectations and will continue to be reviewed every half term or sooner if this is appropriate. Please support your child with these targets at home; working on them once a week would be beneficial as it really helps to reinforce what they learn in school.

#### Spellings

Phonics sessions will continue on a daily basis, in which the children will be practising sounds and tricky words. The children will continue to take part in handwriting practice every Monday where they will practise writing the Year 2 spelling words. The children also have their set of Year 2 'non-negotiable words' to practise: because, were, where, very, really. These are the high frequency words we expect all our Year 2 children to always read and spell correctly.

### Maths

We will continue with our Maths Matters Challenges every Friday. Please ensure their Maths Matters books 'live' in the book bags and support your child in working towards these challenges every week. These quick mental maths skills are vital in supporting all other areas of maths.

### Homework

Our expectation is that you will work at home with your child: reading, working on targets and supporting Maths Matters. In addition to this I will set occasional homework to support our topic learning.

Please feel free to come and see me if you have any questions or queries, your support and comments are greatly appreciated. Wednesdays from 3-3:15 is our 'free' time for you to pop into the classroom. We are very much looking forward to the Spring Term as Marvellous Maples!

Very best wishes

Miss Ashton