



Harwell Community Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all! We'd like to offer a warm welcome to Elsie who will be starting with us this term. It's been lovely to meet her during the few settling in sessions before the holidays. We're very much looking forward to your start. Sadly, we also have to wish Bellah a fond farewell, who has joined the school in her village of Marcham. Bellah was such a happy and kind young lady, we are sad to see her go but wish her all the best in her new school.

The team would very much like to use this opportunity to thank you for your kind words, cards and gifts - they were all very thoughtful, thank you. We trust that you had a great holiday and made lots of happy memories. We'd also like to thank you all for your participation at our outcome last term. It was magical to be able to share the children's efforts with you - thank you for joining in so readily with the bear hunt, your children were ever so proud of you all.

To that note, our next **outcome** will be to celebrate 100 days at school with a little class party. We are yet to fully plan our party so the children will give you full details closer to the time. The party will take place on **Monday 11th February at 230pm**, we hope to see you there.

This term, we are learning about the Chinese Folktale, The Magic Paintbrush. We will be thinking about what it means to be poor, how we might be able to help those around us and we will be celebrating the similarities and differences we have with other people. We have already been receiving replies to our letters which are enabling the children to learn about the world around them and to find out about the past. We'd invite you to encourage this further through talking with your child about you and your past as well as your family. Get them to speak with grandparents and friends in order to develop an interest in the stories of your family and in their own story as well - this is the beginning of developing an understanding

of the past and helps them to learn about how other people are different from them, yet share some of the same characteristics and ideas.

The children will also be developing a further understanding of the world. We will be encouraging the children to take notice of everything around them including places and all the things within them such as trees in the natural environment and roads and traffic in the built environment. Finding out about places begins initially when a child learns about their own home and the things nearby, then later as children notice things on journeys to and from home - such as the sequence of the traffic lights or names on street signs. This awareness is extended by visiting places and finding out about different elements of environments in books, on TV and through using other technology. This aspect also focuses on learning about cause and effect and is developed through having conversations with adults and other children about the things they observe. We hope to do more walks around the village to discover the world around us and invite you to do the same. Please ensure your child has a warm and waterproof coat.

We will be continuing **yoga each Tuesday** and ask that the children **come to school dressed ready to take part**. They can wear comfortable, stretchy trousers (like leggings or jogging bottoms) and a top with a school sweat shirt, which they can keep on for the remainder of the day (This saves changing time).

We will continue to go to the **wildlife area on Thursday afternoons** so please ensure your child has **warm clothes**, including gloves and hat as it can become very cold outside at this time of year. Wellies are also a fab idea - please name EVERYTHING your child brings in so that we can rehome items quickly. PE will continue to be on Fridays so please ensure PE kit is in school then too.

Please ensure that your child has **water** in school each day. To be inline with our healthy eating policy, we ask that the bottles are filled with water and water only (no squash or juice please). I'm afraid this is so important to us that we will replace any squash with water should we need to.

Thanks again for your continued support.

Kind regards,
The FC Team