



**Harwell Community Primary School**

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Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a lovely break. There is so much to be excited about this term! Our topic is 'Changes'. We will be looking at the differences between our school, toys and transport and those in the past, as well as thinking about changes in seasons and weather. If you have anything you think may be relevant, such as pictures or old maps, please let us know.

We will be exploring how Harwell has changed over time and exploring how the village looks now using Google Maps as well as going on a village walk. We will also look at old maps of Harwell to see which roads still exist and which are new. In Science, we will learn about different habitats and how these suit various animals as well as comparing their life cycles and thinking about what they need to survive. We will also be doing some artwork linked to changes so prepare to make space to display some pieces!

Our English work will be a story focusing on a character undergoing a transformation - we are sure more than a few of these will involve princesses and aliens! We will also be writing about how Didcot Railway Station has changed over time, inspired by our upcoming trip there on **Thursday 24th January** (details will follow shortly).

Our Maths work will be exploring multiplying and dividing, thinking carefully about how to ensure we get the right answer. We did some division work before Christmas and were very clear that we have to share into equal groups - especially when it involves sweets! We will also be learning about different bars and graphs and collecting our own data to make these.

We are continuing to learn our times tables, particularly 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s. It would really help if your children could practise these at home and have a chance to show off their hard work. Similarly, please keep reading with your child at home as much as possible, encouraging them to use phonics to sound out words and read with expression.

There is a list of High Frequency Words in your child's reading record that you can also practise with them at home, as well as using some of the websites listed at the end of this letter.

Our outcome for this half-term will be sharing our answers to the question 'Is change locally good for the area?' as well as all our other work. This will take place at **2:30pm** on **Thursday 14th February**.

The children were absolutely amazing last term and we are sure this half-term will be just as fantastic. It is great to see so many of them full of excitement about their learning! I will be updating the 'Ask Me About...' sheet in the window regularly so you can encourage your child to share this with you at home.

If you have any questions, please just let us know.

Best Wishes,  
Miss Rowntree, Mrs Smith and Mrs Bailey

**Websites:**

[www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button](http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button) - quick questions about number bonds and times tables to improve recall.

[www.mymaths.co.uk](http://www.mymaths.co.uk) - Maths games linked to what we have learnt in class. Your child's login should be in their reading record.

[www.bbc.co.uk/sport/super movers/42612496](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/super movers/42612496) - dances and songs to learn about spelling, grammar and times tables. This is year 2's favourite website!

[www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/kids-activities/kids-activities-age-6-7/](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/kids-activities/kids-activities-age-6-7/) - Maths and grammar worksheets and games.

[www.phonicsplay.co.uk/InteractiveResources.htm](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/InteractiveResources.htm) - phases 5&6. Practising segmenting and blending.