



*St John's Mead CEVC Primary School
Autumn Term 2015*

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school. We hope you had an enjoyable summer break. The children are enjoying sharing their Summer Books with the class. You have obviously been very busy trying to complete as many of the 101 activities as possible. There are lots of super photographs and it is lovely to see the children's captions explaining what they did.

Our topic this term is 'How We Are Special' and will include finding out about how to keep ourselves healthy. In Literacy we will be writing information texts linked to keeping healthy and writing stories based on the traditional tale 'Stone Soup'. This term we are focussing on phonics and writing sentences. At home you can help your child by listening to them read regularly, sharing stories and practising key words and spellings – a spelling letter will follow shortly.

Your child will be changing their reading book every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please write the name of the book and the page that they have read up to in their reading record (if you have not written a page number we will assume that they have read to the end). Should you wish to write a comment in the reading record you are very welcome to, but you don't need to do this. If your child reads a book other than their school reading book at home this can also be recorded in their reading record and will help them to receive the special reading certificates even sooner! They get the Bronze Reading Award after 33 reads, Silver after 66 reads, Gold requires 99 reads, Platinum 132 reads, Diamond 165 reads, Amethyst 231 reads and the final reading award is 300 reads! We recommend listening to your child read every night at home because it makes a huge difference to their progress in this really important area.

In Maths we are working to improve our understanding of number and place value, adding and subtracting and shape. You can support your child by asking them to count forwards and backwards and to count groups of objects. We will also be introducing 'Number Clubs' starting with the 'More Than Club'. This is a quick mental maths quiz where children are given 3 minutes to write the number that is one more than a given number to 20.

In Science we will be finding out about ourselves and how to keep healthy. Linked to this we will be cooking in DT and we will be drawing self-portraits in Art. In History we will be finding out about how the school has changed as we are celebrating St John's Mead School's 25th anniversary this term. In RE we will be studying 'Stories and Sacred Writings'. In PSHE we will be thinking about 'New Beginnings' and how to get on with each other.

Please feel free to share these topics with your child at home. The children are welcome to bring in any additional information/artefacts/pictures that link to the topic to share with the class.

PE is on Mondays and Thursdays. Please ensure that your child has a PE kit, including something suitable for colder weather, labelled daps or trainers. If your child wears earrings please make sure they are removed for PE days or if this is not possible please provide tape so that they can be covered. Long hair must also be tied back on these days.

Now that your child is in year one they may, if you choose, purchase toast to eat during morning break. This costs 10p a slice and we expect the children to look after the money themselves. Correct change is appreciated. Fruit will still be provided free of charge to all Key Stage 1 children during break time.

Our library day is Friday. Please ensure your child has their book on that day so that they can be changed.

If any parents or grandparents would like to help by listening to children read or coming in occasionally to support children with, for example art or DT projects, please let us know. We would really appreciate any support.

If you have queries about any matter concerning your child, please do not hesitate to speak to us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Carver and Mrs Hicks