

St John's Mead CEVC Primary School

Spring term 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

The children have settled back into school after the Christmas break and are working hard. Thank you very much for your thoughtful cards and presents, they were much appreciated.



We are already excited about our new topic: **Dragons, Knights and Castles!** This fun unit will include learning about castles. Within this topic we will be covering Materials in Science, where we will be investigating properties of materials and choosing the best materials for a Knight's shield. In DT we will be designing and making our shields. English lessons will include writing reports on different types of castles, and studying the alternative traditional tale 'The Kiss That Missed'.

Our PSHE focus this term will involve the children thinking about how to reach targets or goals, and considering how to understand and manage their feelings. In RE we are learning about the creation story. We will also be thinking about God and reflecting on Bible stories, including the story of Moses and the story of The Lost Son. We will be taking some of this learning outdoors and use the school's Reflection Garden to think about the messages hidden within these stories.

Your child will continue to bring home **reading** books each week. **Please sign, tick or comment in the reading record to show your child has read** the books as we can then count their number of reads for a reward certificate. Reading at home has a significant and lasting effect on children's progress so we are always pleased to celebrate it. Should any of you have any spare time to support with reading, please catch us - we are always grateful for any help! Our class **library day** is Friday: please ensure your child returns their library book on this day (unless they have not finished reading it).

In **Maths** we have been finding halves and quarters of shapes, objects and numbers. We will be practising saying the days of the week and months of the year in order, and telling the time to o'clock and half past. We will be adding and taking away numbers up to twenty, and using addition and subtraction to solve real life maths problems. It would be useful if you could help your child to practise counting in twos, fives and tens, and doubling numbers up to twenty. When they are confident with doubling they could go on to halving even numbers up to twenty.

PE is on Monday and Wednesday although it is best to have the kit in school all week in case of timetable changes, or additional opportunities. Please ensure that your child's **PE kit** is **named** and includes something suitable for colder weather and daps or trainers. If your child wears earrings please make sure they are removed for PE days, otherwise there is tape in the classroom to cover them. Long hair must also be tied back on these days.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Carver and Mrs Bufton