

6th January 2012

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all!

I hope you all had a brilliant family centred Christmas and managed to stay away from all the bugs that seemed to be around. Thank you for those thoughtful gifts, they were all lovely and I was very touched to be thought of!

This term is going to be as busy as ever with our new topic, INDIA! One of the children asked if we could go to India on a trip, so we could really see what it is like. Rest assured, I talked him out of it!!!!

I have attached our topic map to give you some idea of what we will be covering in the next term. Please use this as a source of information for yourself and encourage your child to talk about what they have learnt and to make a note in their Homework book about any questions or thoughts they might have to extend their learning and knowledge.

Our timetable stays the same as last term.

Just a few reminders:

- Children are more than welcome to bring in India related, 'Show and Tell' objects only.
- If you have any plastic bottles, appropriate newspapers or magazines they would gratefully received.
- Spellings will start again next Monday and they will have separate spellings still hoping to master the 200 high frequency spellings in the front of their spelling book.
- Homework will be given as normal on a Friday and will alternate between Topic and Maths. Children can always dip into Mathematics at any time too.
- Please make sure that your child reads as much as possible at home as this really supports their literacy skills. Challenge them on the meanings of unfamiliar words. Using a dictionary is a good skill to master. They all enjoyed and seemed to grasp using a dictionary and thesaurus last term.

Children are generally given time each day to change their books so there should be no excuses to have the same book for too long. They were all given a Reading Record Diary around the end of the first term. Please can you write in them when they have read to you and / or sign it? This can be any book and not just school as this shows the amount of reading and the reading styles they have accessed. It is a good idea to add any words (maximum of ten) they found a challenge, pronouncing or unsure of the meaning, as this will help improve vocabulary and understanding.

Towards the end of term (w/c 26th March) we will of course celebrate our learning of our Topic and we may well dress up (Indian style) and experience some Indian cooking and cuisine along with lots of other fun things which we will do along the way. Keep a look out for brightly coloured material, voiles which can be used as saris.

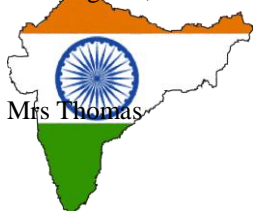
I hope to also arrange a practical Indian workshop. This will allow the children to partake in a range of practical activities where they will learn in greater depth about India from their country, dress, cultures, dance, and beliefs and have the opportunity to ask questions, giving them a greater insight into this amazing country and topic. Daxa, who works for the local authority and is a practicing Hindu, has a wealth of knowledge and children in my previous schools have thoroughly enjoyed the learning experience and have come away knowing so much more.

If there are any problems, questions, worries or fun stories please make sure you grab me. In the morning is possible but not ideal but after school is generally a good time. It is really important that we work together to discuss the highs and lows as these have a huge impact on their lives. As previously mentioned where possible or appropriate encourage your child to discuss things with me as well as this is a great for their development.

I'm really looking forward to our next term together and I'm sure we will fill our day up with lots of great things.

Enjoy the peace, quiet and rest!

Kind regards,



Mrs Thomas