Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely Christmas. The children have already settled well into their class and seem excited about their new topic.

Topic

Our Topic this term is ‘Ice World.’ This is a Geography and Science based topic which started with finding that a stranger had arrived in our classroom on Monday morning, they had made quite a mess! But after a bit of detective work we found a polar bear hiding on top of a book shelf. This was the start to our topic and through stories, non-fiction books and other exciting activities we will be learning all about the colder areas of earth, the animals, people who live there and how they live and survive. There is a curriculum overview attached of the areas covered so that you have an understanding of the learning covered in each subject.

This term we will continue with the same routines, reading books, word boxes and homework. I have attached the regular, more detailed information about these as a reminder.

The children are all doing so well and I am happy with how they have settled into the year one routine and the progress they are making. I’m looking forward to the new term and the many exciting learning opportunities we have planned. Please remember if you have any other concerns or queries, do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

Mrs Smith

**Reading Books**

All the children should have been issued a new reading book with a reading record. This will come home with your child each night. We will listen to the children read individually in school at least once a week, as well as part of a group each week. It is crucial that the children do read at home too. It is important that you do record any reading completed at home within their reading records, to ensure we keep our records accurate and up to date. Reading books will be changed most days but please write, ‘finished’ in their diary so we know a new book is needed.

**Spellings and Homework**

The children will be given a weekly spelling sheet each Friday. They will be tested the following Friday on their spellings. The scores will be sent home for you to see. Any help you can give your child is appreciated and a real boost when they gain confidence and can see the difference practice makes. Do make this a fun and interactive experience so your child stays engaged and inspired.

In addition to this I will give out an optional homework task which will extend on something we have been learning that week. This will be an English, maths, science or topic task. Please remember that this is optional, spelling and reading are the priority.

**Word box**

All the children have a word box with the 4 words we are learning to read and write that week. Over the year they will have the first 100 high frequency words that year one children are expected to know by the end of the year. These are included in their weekly spelling test, I will take words out of the box once they know them. So any word still left in their boxes are words they still can’t spell or read.

**P.E**

PE is on a Tuesday and Thursday. Occasionally, we may have to change these times, so it is important that the children have their full PE kit in school at all times and that as it gets cooler they have a spare jumper or school hoodie they can wear outside.

**Earrings**

We ask that all earrings are **not** worn on PE days or that your child is able to take them out themselves.

**Achievement Assembly**

We will be celebrating achievements during Monday’s assembly. Each week, as well as acknowledging the ‘Star of the Week’ and counting the House point totals, the children can also bring in any achievement from home (Swimming, Brownies, Judo etc).

**Sheerhatch Values**

Each month, there will be a different ‘Sheerhatch Value’ we focus on. January’s Value is ‘Respect.’ Do discuss different ways we show respect at school and home and even in our community. Individuals spotted following this value will be awarded with a special token, do praise your child if they receive one!

**Fruit and Water**

KS1 are entitled to free fruit and this will be given to the children at morning break. KS1 do have a quick afternoon break too so please send some additional fruit in a named tub/bag as this will help your child to stay focused on their learning all day. Please send your child in with a named water bottle too. These will be sent home at the end of each day.