

Welcome back and a happy new year to everyone!

Thank you for supporting your children coming back into school last week, they have all returned refreshed and ready to continue their learning at school.

As you were aware we had a school review from the LA (local authority) in the Autumn term and as a result of this review we have updated the school priorities I sent you in September. We will, however, be continuing with our reading and outdoor learning.

Here is the updated version:

School priorities for 2016 to 2017

- Priority 1

Improve the quality of teaching and learning to be at least consistently good so all pupils make the progress they are capable of from their different starting points.

- Priority 2

Improve the impact and effectiveness of those with leadership responsibilities.

- Priority 3

Improve reading outcomes across school.

Inspire a reading culture where children enjoy and understand what they are reading and see connections with their lives.

- Priority 4

Enriching The Ellis Curriculum.

Review and enhance the curriculum to improve children's involvement and pupil engagement, include more opportunities for Learning Behaviours, Outdoor Learning and Home Learning opportunities.

As a result of the review, staff are continuing to work hard to make learning the best it can be for your children to ensure all our children perform well.

Curriculum update

- The Children now have writing targets to enable them to independently know the areas they are working on in KS1 and KS2 (these are in the shape of a pencil and kept in their writing books). The Foundation children have large pencils in their writing areas with whole class targets.
- The children wanted us to go beyond green in the traffic light behaviour system to acknowledge children that have really pushed themselves. In KS1 and KS2 we are 'reaching for the stars' and each class now has a silver and a gold star. Please note we are still acknowledging that staying on green is fantastic and is making the right choice. Foundation 2 children are reaching for their pot of gold. We will be continuing with the class and individual dojos which children collect and they relate to the school's learning behaviours. (KS1/KS2)
- The children (KS1/KS2) will have 'Learning Objective grids' in their books to show the learning taking place. The children use the success criteria of the lesson to assess their understanding of the learning using the traffic light marking system. Green for 'I understand', amber for 'I need some more work on this to fully understand' and red for 'I don't understand this'. We are encouraging the children to be honest and reinforcing that it is positive to say 'I don't understand this' so the teacher knows. The results of the lesson will support the teachers to plan the follow on lessons.
- We are setting up 'Bubble Time' in school, this is if children or teachers need to speak to each other but not in front of the class they will find a time to have that quiet conversation.

Homework Club

We have been re-thinking homework and would like to rename it home learning. We will not be handing out the weekly sheets, however please continue to spend time with your child reading and practising spellings. Thank you so much for the

support in hearing your children read at home. Teachers will set the children a home learning challenge for the half term. (More details will follow from your child's class teacher). There may also be maths to practice.

Due to the change of homework, now re-named home learning, we will no longer be running homework club. We do understand how important after school clubs are and will continue to offer different clubs after school, with cookery club starting this week.

Panto - Aladdin

We are delighted to say that the PTFA are paying for school to have a pantomime on the 2.2.17, so thank you for everyone's support raising money for school that has enabled the PTFA to buy this treat for the children.

Curriculum Event

We are wanting to give you an opportunity to come and find out more about your child's learning in school and we will be putting on a curriculum event that will give you more information about learning in school.

School will be open after school on the **1st February** for you to attend the curriculum events. Please note we will arrange quiet activities in the hall if you are needing cover for your children to enable you to attend the meeting.

4.00-4.30pm KS1 meeting (Y1 and Y2) in Y2 class

4.30-5.00pm Lower KS2 meeting (Y3 and Y4) in Y3 class

5.00-5.30pm Upper KS2 (Y5 and Y6) in Y6 class

5.30-6.00pm Y6 SATS meeting

To help us with numbers can you please tick on the class list that you will be attending. This will be put up in the cloakrooms or if you do not drop your children off due to work commitments you are welcome to pass a message to the teachers or to the office.

Thank you for your continued support, please do not hesitate to come and speak to the teachers, Mrs Edwards or Mrs Hurding if you have any concerns or ideas for improvement.