

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term 5 of the academic year, I hope that you all have had a good Easter break. During this seven week term we will be busy learning lots more of the curriculum and we are hopeful that more time can be spent outdoors in some spring sunshine !

English	Children in Early Years will be developing their writing stamina by writing in lots of different genres this term including narrative writing, information writing, poetry and postcard writing. Children in Years 1 and 2 will begin with writing fables before moving on to explanation texts and poetry. We will be teaching lots of different writing techniques this term and encouraging the children to have a go at using these in their independent writing.
Grammar	Children in Year 1 and Year 2 will look at plurals, suffixes and word classes ( nouns, verbs and adjectives ) this term.
Reading comprehension	We will continue with our work on answering questions about what we are reading with our twice weekly Book Talk sessions. These develop children's understanding about what they are reading and teaches them how to answer questions about texts.
Phonics and Spelling	Early Years begin to focus on Phase 4 this term whilst recapping Phase 3 sounds. Year 1 continue with Phase 5 alternative sounds this term. Spelling continues to be practised by all children daily as part of their early morning activities and English lessons.
Maths EYFS	Early Years begin a 3 week unit on numbers to 20 and beyond this term. We will be counting forwards and backwards as well as building numbers to 20 with numicon. This reinforces the understanding of place value in teen numbers. For example, children understand that 13 is made up of one ten and 3 ones. Later in the term we introduce addition and subtraction using number stories. Eg <b>First</b> I saw 3 birds in a tree, <b>Then</b> , two more joined, <b>Now</b> I can see 5 birds in the tree.
Maths Year 1	Year 1 begin the term with an introduction to multiplication and division. They will learn to count in 2's, 5's and 10's, make equal groups to multiply and also share quantities in order to divide. They then move onto a unit on fractions where they will find halves and quarters of shapes and quantities. Towards the end of the term they will look at position and direction ( left and right and other positional language) before completing a week on numbers to 100 in the last week of term !
Maths Year 2	Year 2 will spend 3 weeks using their skills in number ( addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) to solve problems involving measurement. They will solve problems using written methods to solve questions about length, height, mass, volume and capacity. In the last half of the term they will begin a unit on fractions. They will recap work on finding half and a quarter from Year 1 and then move on to finding thirds and three quarters of shapes and quantities. Maths skills will focus on learning off by heart their times tables and division facts – please keep practising these at home.
Science	Our topic this term is Young Gardeners. We will be looking at the structure of plants and trees and learning about what they need to grow through a series of experiments. We will also try and improve our plant identification skills by observing closely, common plants. In the last week of term, we have a visit to Cut the Mustard planned where we will be putting into practise all that we have learnt this term.
History	Our theme is Holidays in the Past. We will be looking at how holidays have changed from the Victorian age to the holiday parks of the 1960's and finally to

	the sorts of holidays we can have now. We will be looking at changes in the length of holidays, how we get there and what we do on holiday. We will be using lots of old photographs, videos and brochures to compare holidays in the past.
RE	Miss Bevans will be teaching Acorns Class more about the Jewish faith this term. They will be looking at the story of David and Goliath and why this is important to followers of the Jewish faith. They will also look at the story of Chanukah and learn about how Sukkot is celebrated.
Design and Technology	Mrs Russell will be teaching a unit on structures and winding mechanisms.
Music	Miss Bevans will teach a unit on vocal and body sounds with the theme of 'By the Sea'
Computing	The children will complete a unit on coding this term. They will learn to write code in order to make objects move and interact across the screen. Each year group will have their own unit of work so that skills are matched to experience.
PE	We return to having two lessons of PE in school this term as we have finished our swimming lessons. One lesson will be spent learning the skills for cricket and the other lesson will have a team building theme. PE lessons will be on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings this term. Please see further details about school uniform below.

### **Arrangements for PE this term**

**Tuesday afternoon for 1 hour** – Children will change into PE kit for this lesson so **please come to school in normal school uniform**. PE kit can be kept in school for Thursday if needed.

**Thursday morning for 1 hour** – **Please come to school in normal school uniform**. Children will change for PE in school – this is an important skill and forms part of the preparation for PE.

### **Forest School**

This continues for children in EYFS and Year 1 on Friday afternoons. We have waterproof suits if you would like to borrow one. Please bring wellies for your child ( these can be kept in school if this is easier).

### **Visits to North Cerney School**

These will continue every Monday morning of term ( except for the first day of term) . The children take part in an English lesson and a Maths lesson taught by myself, Mrs Pressman and our two teaching assistants, Mrs Williams and Mrs Crawford. Please bring your child's car seat.

### **Key Stage 1 SATs**

Statutory tests for Year 2 in reading, grammar/spelling and maths have been abolished nationally and replaced with the Reception Baseline Testing which your children have already taken when they started their reception year. In line with all the schools in the Trust , we will continue with optional SATs for Year 2 as a way to measure progress and identify needs. These will take place next term.

## **Homework**

Please continue to read with your child as often as possible – ideally daily and write this in their reading record so that we can continue where you left off. Children who are daily readers make the most progress in school and so this is vital. Please prioritise reading over everything else for homework.

Please practise the key maths skills from your KIRFs document which is being sent out. These are the most basic skills needed for this term and your child benefits hugely from practising these at home.

Children will also benefit from learning to tell the time using an analogue clock and handling money – these are all skills which take a lot of time to learn and there is not the capacity in the school day to practise these skills as much as is needed for children to become secure. Please ask if you are unsure of the sorts of activities you could practise.

With best wishes.

Mrs Spring