



Welcome Back!

Dear Parents,

Let your light shine

I'd like to begin by saying **Thank You so much** for all the kind and generous cards and gifts I was given for Christmas by the children.

Secondly, I do hope you all enjoyed a restful and enjoyable Christmas, and I wish you all a very Happy New Year! I'm feeling refreshed and ready (and hope that the children are too!) for what is sure to be another busy term of learning. Our topic this term is 'The Ancient Maya' – please see the new term's topic plan on the reverse of this letter for more information about what we hope to cover during the spring term.

Uniform and clothing

A polite reminder that children should be sent to school in **full St Catharine's uniform**, this includes appropriately **smart school footwear** and **a coat** for if the weather turns! Children continue to need a **pair of trainers** to wear outdoors at break and lunchtimes and for use during PE lessons. The Children will be being taught sports this term by Mrs Heneghan, as our fantastic Mini Marine's sessions have now finished. PE lessons this term will be on Wednesdays, however it is advised that kit is in school every day.

Homework

- I have changed the timetable (you can see the new timetable inside the cover of your child's homework diary) for **spelling tests**, we will now be both doing our test and giving out new spellings on **Tuesday afternoons**.
- Homework will continue to be a rolling 'test' each week from the sat buster books, and is due in to be group marked, also on Tuesday afternoons.
- Please ensure that your child completes **twenty minutes** of both **spelling shed** and **prodigy maths per week**.
- Please continue to listen to your child **read daily** and write how much they have read into homework diaries, along with any comments on how they read. We will endeavour to change books on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. If your child wishes to read more than three books a week, please visit the local library to broaden their reading experience.

Excellent online resources for a little extra boost!

I'd love to take this opportunity to let you know about a fabulous resource which has been proven to aid in the rapid recall of multiplication facts. If this is an area you think your child would benefit from further practice of, please go and take a look at <https://trockstars.com/home>. A family subscription costs £6.99 per year but it is definitely worth the investment if this is an area your child needs extra revision with! We also have access to a spelling, punctuation and grammar revision scheme which children will be given a login to soon. Go and check out <https://www.spag.com/> for more information on that!

Another fabulous resource which some children have already begun to use is <https://readtheory.org> which is a fabulous website which sets reading comprehension mini revisions at the level of the child based on their correct/incorrect answers. This is great for practicing for the upcoming national tests after Easter.

As always please do not hesitate to ask if you have any queries, please contact Mrs McCarthy in the office to make an appointment, or catch me on the playground after school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Bramley