



Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Let me begin with a 'Thank you!'**

First of all this week, I want to thank all the parents and carers who have come to the various Christmas events we have held over the past week. Thank you to the small band of parents who wrapped all the presents in readiness for the children to do their Christmas shopping at the start of the week. It was a huge wrapping effort and we are so grateful for all your time. Thank you too to the many, many parents who have attended all of the 'Born in a Barn!' performance over the past three days. You have been a wonderful audience and for those of you who attended all three shows, a huge 'well done' to you. Thank you also to the parents and carers who helped by walking the children to church yesterday afternoon and who attended the Christmas Service. It was lovely to see you there and we are so grateful for your valued support.

I trust that when we finally get to the end of term you will all have a restful break from the school run and some quality time together as a family.

### **Reminder:**

If your child requires an asthma pump can you please make sure you have completed the relevant form and put the pump in a named carrier bag and pass onto class teacher.

### **Getting ready for next term**

#### **Nursery News**

Next term in Nursery our topic is pets.

If you have a pet at home that you could bring in & show the children or that we could have in over the session please let us know.

Our 'Talk for Writing' book this term is 'Dear Zoo,' by Rod Campbell. It would be great if you could go to the library & borrow this book & read it over the holidays or it might make a lovely Christmas present!

Over the holidays please keep sharing books with your child each day.

We will be starting to learn to count 5 objects. So if you can practise at home that would be great. Get your child to line up the objects & then touch each 1 as they say the number.

Have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

### **News from Reception!**

The children have done really well with the nativity and we were really proud of them.

Next term our topic is 'Explorers.' Please talk to your children about where your children and families are from.

It would be great if you could visit the local library and talk about people from different countries.

In Maths we are learning about the months of the year and seasons. It would really help the children if you could ask lots of questions relating to this. For example, what kind of things do we do in Winter? What is the weather like in Summer? Your birthday is in...

We hope you have a lovely break.

### **Year 1**

When the Year 1s come back fresh from their Christmas break, we'll be starting our new topic 'Dinosaurs'. We'll be learning about how long ago the different dinosaurs lived and exploring the sizes of the dinosaurs. We'll also be attempting to pronounce some of the more

tricky names belonging to the dinosaurs. 'Harry and his bucket full of dinosaurs' will be the text we're using for our literacy as we think about how a 5 part story works (opening, build up, problem, resolution and ending). Our next maths unit is all about time. Over the next few weeks, it would be great if you are able to find some dinosaur books to look at in the library, talk about the parts of stories as you read them and discuss the time at different parts of the day.

### **Year 2**

What an amazing week the children have had! Thank you all for your support in coming to watch their Christmas production. The children all worked really hard and were so thrilled that you were able to come and appreciate all their hard work.

Looking ahead to next term our topic will be 'Food Glorious Food' we will be learning about where food comes from, healthy eating and food from around the world. We have some visits planned linked to our topic which we will inform you about after the holiday. We will be sending the children home with a small project to complete, please help them to do this in preparation for next term. Over the holidays please ensure that you continue to read with your children. We will be issuing the children with new reading books in the New Year.

### **Year 3**

In the new term our topic will be 'Inventors and Inventions'. We will be researching into what makes a great invention, creating our own inventions and also discovering local inventor's creations around the city. In Maths we will be continuing with our learning of length and perimeter and in Literacy we will be reading and learning our new class text 'The Borrowers'.

Year 3 have worked incredibly hard this half term and we wish you all a restful break and look forward to an exciting term in the New Year!

### **Year 4**

Where did this term go?!

Next half term we plan on hitting the ground running as we kick off our new and exciting topic 'Extreme Environments'. This topic will see the children exploring and researching the Arctic and Antarctic, what the weather is like, what animals can be found there and how have they adapted to their environment.

If you and your child could do some research on this topic over the festive period then it will really help with their understanding ready for January.

On behalf of everyone in Year 4 and at Ark Dickens Primary Academy - Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### **Year 5**

Year 5 have a fantastic new topic after the holidays, we will be learning about Rainforests and Conservation. We will be reading the book: Kensuke's Kingdom and will be using this to develop our skills in narrative and non-fiction writing. In maths, we will be focusing on fractions so it would be extremely beneficial to the children if they continue to practice their times tables over the holidays. Having said this, we have decided to set a very different type of homework for the Christmas break as we would like the children to choose activities that they can do with their family and friends e.g. play a board game, try a new food or give something to charity. We want them all to have a thoroughly restful holiday so that they are bright and refreshed for the high expectations of them in the new term.

Thank you for your continued support.

### **Year 6**

Next term we will be starting our topic on WW2. We have already been reading on what life was like for children who were evacuated to help us hit the ground running when we get back. Over the holidays, we would love you to do a little bit of research on WW2 to help your understanding for when we get back. We will

begin by learning about rationing and tasting some of the 'yummy' recipes that were used in the 1940s. We can't wait!

Just to let you know that Miss Coombs will be beginning her maternity leave around Easter next term. Plans are in place to cover her absence and we will write to you more about this after the Christmas Break.

Have a lovely break and a very happy Christmas and New Year.