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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new term. I hope you all had a lovely half-term break. The days are getting shorter and the weather is becoming cooler which can only mean one thing...Christmas will soon be here! I love this term in school. It is always a busy term with all our fantastic learning opportunities as well as our Nativity performance and all things Christmas!

I wanted to take the opportunity to share some important information with yourselves, including information about the learning which will be happening as well as important information you need to know about daily life at school.

After Dark!

This term our topic is called '**After Dark**'. In English, we will be looking at fantastic texts such as Owl Babies and the Owl who was Afraid of the Dark. We will use these texts to provide high quality learning opportunities to support your child's reading and writing skills. In Science we will be learning about how we can group different animals based on their features and characteristics. We will also be exploring the diets of different animals and carrying out experiments to decide whether they are carnivores, omnivores, or herbivores. In History we will be exploring why we celebrate bonfire night, who Guy Fawkes is and how we celebrate bonfire night. In Art we will be exploring the artist Van Gogh and exploring his 'Starry Night' artwork. We will be using oil pastels to create our own version of his art. In PE we will be learning how to create a sequence of movements to create a short dance with a partner. We will be looking at different ways to travel and balance to make our dance more appealing to an audience. We will also be learning about why we celebrate Christmas and learn to tell the story through our Nativity.

Drop off and Pick up

I just wanted to say how proud I am of the new reception children last term with drop off times. They soon settled into routines and have shown an increase in their independence when putting their things away and getting them ready for the end of the day. A polite reminder to wait for your child to be released to yourselves at the end of the day so that the adults know every child has gone home with an adult safely.

Drop off – gate opens at 8.35am for an 8.40am start.

Pick up – 3.15pm

Personal Belongings

The weather is starting to get much cooler. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the cooler weather (hats, gloves, scarves etc). As always, we ask that **everything** is clearly labelled with your child's name so we are able to return any lost items to the correct child.

P.E.

Your child will have a P.E. session **every** week. Year 1 children will have their P.E. sessions on Thursday and Friday and Reception children will have their P.E. session on a Friday. Your child should bring their P.E. kit into school, where they will get changed into it for our P.E. sessions. If your child wears earrings, could I please ask that they are removed before school in order to keep your child safe within P.E. lessons. Please make sure your child's P.E. kit is in school for our first P.E. session on **Thursday 3rd / Friday 4th November 2023.**

Swineshead St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Abbey Road, Swineshead, Boston, Lincs,
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Forest School

Our Forest School sessions will continue to run this term. Our first Forest School session will be on Thursday 3rd November. Please ensure your child has their forest school kit in school ready for this session. Our forest school area is getting quite muddy with the wet weather, please take this into consideration when you are packing your child's kit. We ask that a separate hat, gloves and scarf are provided for their forest school kit to keep it all together.

Homework

It has been lovely seeing the children engage in their homework last term. Homework will continue to be handed out each Friday. Please ensure your child brings their homework back to school so Dojo points can be awarded. This term your homework will be as follows:

Year 1 – weekly Sumdog homework, phonics homework, daily reading and a piece of GPS homework.

Reception – phonics homework, daily reading, CVC word writing.

Reading Books

Your child will continue to have a sharing book that they will bring home to share with you for their pleasure. This will be changed on a Monday and Friday. Children will also change their phonics book on a Wednesday. Please ensure you are writing in your child's reading record when you have read with them. 2 dojo points will be awarded every time your child reads. Children will be regrouped in their reading groups the week commencing 6th November.

Other News

Our Nativity planning is well underway and information, including parts and tickets will follow in due course. Please keep your eyes peeled.

Family Workshop – this term our family workshop will focus on the teaching of phonics. You will be invited to join us for a short phonics session and then participate in a range of games and activities which we use in school to support your child with their phonics. More information will be posted on Class Dojo.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me via Class Dojo. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Kind Regards,
Mrs Walton

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