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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new term. I can't quite believe it is 2024 already! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and got something special from Santa! I just want to say a big thankyou for your support with the Nativity last year. It wouldn't have been possible without your support, whether that be providing costumes or coming to watch it!

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 '**Once Upon a Time**'. This is a fantastic topic which allows us to look at a range of different fairy tales, as well as explore what castles are! In English, we will be looking at the traditional tales Jack and the Beanstalk, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and The Three Little Pigs. The children will be partaking in lots of story telling and writing. In Science the children will be beginning to look at everyday materials and their properties. In History, we will be learning all about castles, what they are, why they were built and what it would be like to live in a castle. The children will be using the VR headsets to experience what it is like inside a castle. In RE the children will begin to think about special things and places to them and other religions. In D.T. the children will be making moving pictures. We will explore how different toys, books and pictures can move before learning new skills to make slider, lever and wheel mechanisms. P.E. this term will be gymnastics. The children will be exploring different ways to balance, jump and roll.

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 4th January. (Year 1 only)**. Reception PE will start the following Friday.

Personal Belongings

The cold weather will certainly continue this term. 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. We have a big pile of lost property gathering in the school foyer. If your child has lost anything, please feel free to have a rummage to see if you can find it.

Forest School

Our Forest School sessions will continue to run this term. Our first Forest School session will be on Thursday 11th January. 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.

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

Uniform

Please can we remind you that the school has a uniform policy which must be followed at all times. We have noticed some children coming to school in clothing which is not part of our uniform (e.g. trainers and hoodies). Please can you ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform each day.

Other News

WOW Day – our knights and princess WOW day is being held on Friday 5th January 2024. Your child is invited to dress up as a knight or princess for the day and will participate in a range of activities.

Family Workshop – this term our family workshop will focus on the teaching of number. You will be invited to join us for an hour session looking at a variety of different activities to support your child's maths learning. A date will be confirmed in the first week back.

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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