

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to Term 1, I hope you have had an enjoyable summer and are ready to start this exciting academic year. Since the start of term, the children have settled in very well and have been keen to share all their holiday news! Throughout the term, a significant amount of our learning will be based on protecting our environment, through our whole school approach, 'Challenge Chilham – Can we make a Difference?' In Martins we will focus on 'Weather and Climate', developing the children's geographical skills, as they will be asked to find counties and countries from an Atlas, compare and contrast different climates and be able to write their own weather forecasts. It will also allow children to consider how climate change is affecting our world and what we could do to help prevent this. Science will focus on 'Plants' and will involve lots of experimenting and questioning. I think the children will really benefit from a 'hands-on' approach, where they can make predictions and work scientifically.

We are excited to announce that we will be starting Forest School this term in the grounds of Chilham Castle - more information will be sent out in a separate letter.

In English, we will be reading, 'The song of the Dolphin' by Elizabeth Laird. This is a beautiful story about the importance of ocean conservation and looking after your environment. I am incredibly excited about some of the great writing and activities we have planned for the children and cannot wait to start working!

**Owl Talk Visit:** This term, 'Owl Talk', will come to our school to provide an exciting and interactive educational talk and presentation. All the children will have the opportunity to hold the owls and find out about their habitat, diet and need for protection. This is an incredible treat for the children, many of the Martins are keen to come face to face with a real live owl!

**PE:** will be on a Thursday afternoon with Mrs Keir and Mr Dendy. This term the children will be learning about and playing invasion games. Please ensure that your child has a full school PE kit, which remains in school until the end of the term. All kits must be clearly labelled with your child's name. All hair should be tied back and earrings removed.

**Home Reading:** All children have received a new reading record and have chosen a book to enjoy! All pupils should read every day and will need their reading records signed at home to receive their 5- star reader Raffle Ticket – this gives them the chance to win a weekly prize! In year 3, if children have completed their book, they are encouraged to change them frequently.

**Homework:** Homework will be given out on a Friday to be completed by the following Thursday. Children will receive Maths and spelling homework, with the occasional topic or science piece included at various points during the term. If your child does not complete their homework, they will be invited to join a homework club on Friday lunchtime.

**Spellings/Multiplication Tests:** Spellings will be given out on a Friday to be tested the following Thursday. Please ensure that your child practises these at home, as they will be expected to get full marks! Times Tables are integral to your child's learning. If your child learns their tables they will find it much easier to access the maths curriculum across Key Stage 2. Each child will be given their own times tables to learn.

**Home/School Books:** These home/school correspondence books are for any messages you would like me to receive at the beginning of the school day and vice versa. Please remind your child to get this out of their bags at the end of the day. Of course, I am always available if you have something you would rather speak to me about in person.

We look forward to working with you and your child this year.

Many thanks,

Miss Harris and Mr Dendy