



Dear Parents/Carers

A warm welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all. I hope you all enjoyed a welcome break over the Christmas holidays and managed to spend time together as a family.

We have launched straight into 2025 with a new Enquiry, '**How are there two sides to every story?**' Our value which will be the driver for this is **Honesty**. This is such a powerful and important Enquiry that the children always get so much out of.

If you don't already, please do follow us on Facebook for regular photo updates from our daily life in school. You should now have received an Enquiry Web which will share information on the learning happening in class.



### Uniform

Towards the end of last term we were starting to see white trainers, jewellery and make up/nail varnish coming in to school. Please can we remind you that your child needs black shoes, long hair tied back and not to wear any jewellery or make up/nail varnish to school. A watch and stud earrings are acceptable. Could you also ensure your child has a named PE kit that stays in school on your child's peg. This means they always have what they need for PE sessions. Your child must also have a coat in school as we endeavour to go outside in all weathers (unless it is pouring with rain).

If you are short of any uniform or need something, we do have ample of second hand uniform available. Thank you.

### Support for Learning at Home

We know how important it is to keep the momentum of learning going and are currently revising our Homework Policy as we know this is always a delicate balance for families at home.

Children should have a reading book that they bring home every day. Please support your child to read this at home. There is so much research around the importance of this and how it can support learning in all other areas of the curriculum. Our Phonics learning starts right down in Reception, and children make a flying start. We need to keep this momentum going as they move into Beech and Oak class. We really need your help with this to encourage children to read as much as they can. They can read anything – so please encourage this as much as possible! Children have Love Reading Journals to document their reading. Please chat to class teachers if you have any questions around this.

We also have Times Table Rock Star (TTRS), Spelling Shed and Mymaths subscriptions where children can practise their fluency of Maths and Spelling skills that will be beneficial and support them in the classroom. Children should have their log in details in their Reading Journals. Again, please ask if you need an additional copy of these for home.



**Attendance:**

It is the time of year when there are a lot of different 'bugs' going around. If your child is going to be absent from school, please ensure you call the office to inform us and give us the symptoms so we can log the attendance appropriately. We need to know where your child is in line with our Safeguarding Policy. You should now have received the whole school 'attendance' update letter for the term. I continue to have regular meetings with the EWO to monitor attendance and so if you have having trouble with this, please don't hesitate to arrange a meeting with us to see if there is anything we can do to support you.

**Clubs & Wraparound**

You will have now had this half term's club list circulated. If you have not registered your child for an after-school club and they are interested in joining one, please let the office know as soon as possible. Can we please remind you that we sometimes have waiting lists and so if you take up a place, we do need your commitment in attending. If for any reason your child cannot attend for a week, please contact the office, otherwise we will keep them on site and assume they are attending.

We have been closely monitoring our wraparound numbers for the after-school sessions as last term we noticed these were very quiet. Once clubs are up and running, we will be making a decision as to whether is it a viable option keeping these wraparound sessions running. If we decide to cancel these, we will give you as much notice as possible so you can find alternative arrangements. This is a difficult decision to make but it must be financially viable to keep them running.

**Closure Due to Bad Weather**

We had a practise for this last term, but it is that time of the year again and so in the extreme circumstances of the school being closed due to bad weather, you will be notified via the Arbour App. We will also ensure we update our school Facebook pages. The later opening option is sometimes a better option than closing completely, but we will keep you informed of decisions with as much notice as possible where we can. Just remember to keep checking your messages.

As usual, if you have any concerns, worries or suggestions, do please come and talk to us.

Kind regards



Lou Kirkman and the team



**Diary dates:**

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| <b>Spring Term 1 2025</b>                           |   |
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan                         | After school clubs start this week (other than Art and Cooking) |
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan                         | Sycamore Immersion Day  |
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> -Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan | Oak – Mini Police Programme                                     |
| Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan                        | Cluster Cross Country @ SJS - £3:30pm                           |
| Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb                          | Oak trip to Eden Project  |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb                       | Last day of Spring Term 1                                       |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb                         | INSET Day – School closed                                       |
| Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb                         | First day of Spring Term 2                                      |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April                        | Last day of Spring Term 2                                       |