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19th January 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to St Mary's! The children have settled back in really well and are showing fantastic learning behaviours.

Thank you for ensuring your child is in the playground at 8.55am and coming in independently. Even though this can be a struggle after a holiday period, we would like to thank you for your support as we know it helps the children settle faster back into the school routine.

Now that the cold weather is here, please make sure your child attends school everyday with a jumper, coat, gloves and a hat (unless their coat has a hood). The weather has been deceiving with a mix of sunshine but as the children spend a great amount of time outside for their learning, it is important they are warm. Please make sure each individual item is labelled, especially with gloves.

To support your child's learning, we would ask that you continue to read with your child as often as possible. Could you please write any comments in each evening in your child's reading record and return it to school each morning. We do appreciate all your support in helping your child with their reading. It really does make a difference.

You may have heard the children talking about our fantastic house points. House points are given out to children as a reward. We have four house groups: Mothecombe, Bigbury, Wembury and Bovisand. Your child is in..... house. At the end of the week, we celebrate the house that has gained the most house points in our whole school Celebration Assembly. There will also be two Stars of the Week. These will be children who have shown themselves to be a great learner over the week.

There is now a bulletin board on the shed in the playground. This board will provide useful reminders and information to parents. Please check this for updated information.

Our topic this term revolves around "Winter then Minibeasts." The children will explore nature and look at changes within the natural environment. We will focus on snow and ice and, in the second half of the term, look at life cycles. We will continue with our phonics. The children will now move to more complicated sounds involving 2 letters and begin to recognise these within words. In maths, we will focus on addition and subtraction, beginning with more than/less than and extending this to adding and taking away objects to find a value. We attach our overview

for the Spring term which we hope you will find useful. The overview shows you the different areas of learning we will cover this term.

If for any reason you feel the need to see your child's teacher, please feel free to do so. Although it is difficult to talk at length in the morning, we are always happy to arrange a time after school, when the teacher can give you more time. If you feel a home contact book would be useful due to working hours, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Faithfully,

Mrs Nikki Clarke