

A very Happy New Year to all our families! We hope you all had an enjoyable holiday. It was so lovely to see all the children return to school looking so much more grown up and eager and excited about the learning we have planned for this term. In our New Year's assembly the children were full of ambitions to become better at a range of sports including swimming, dancing, rugby and many more. They also want to improve their writing, reading, art and maths as well as being better friends and being more helpful. Looks like the children are ready for all the new challenges ahead!

We have planned a number of activities for this term including a whole school felt making project which will be carried out by a local felt artist called Bessie. She will be working with small groups of children over a number of weeks to create a banner which will cover the front wall of our School Hall. Some of our Key Stage 2 children will also have an opportunity to be part of Jackdaws Schools' Opera Project learning parts of an opera called 'The Love Potion' based on Donizetti's 'L'Elisir d'Amore'. They will then perform with professionals and other schools in the Cheese and Grain in an evening performance on Friday 4th May 2017.

The NSPCC will be coming to deliver their 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' assemblies as part of helping our children to learn to respect themselves and each other and to keep themselves safe. We will also be doing a workout with their mascot 'Buddy' to raise funds for the NSPCC who carry out vital work protecting children.

Reception's Family Learning this term will be on Tuesday 24th January from 9-10 am. There will also be a whole school Family Learning evening on Wednesday 8th February which will have an Art and Design and Technology theme but with a twist. Intrigued? Then come along and have some fun with the whole family!

Look out for your child's topic overview on the back of next week's Thursday Note.

Keeping your children safe with technology: We thought it might be helpful to remind parents about checking your child's new Christmas presents are set up for them to use safely.

Advice taken from the UK Safer Internet Centre: Gaming devices provide a variety of interesting activities and ways for young people to engage with their friends and families. However, it is important to be aware of what these devices can do and how you can talk with your child to help them to use this technology in safe and positive way. All modern gaming devices offer parental controls to help you manage how your child uses their device, but these do need to be set up in order for them to be operational. Please make sure they are only accessing games which are appropriate for their age. This link will help you adjust the settings for the most common gaming machines:

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology/gaming-devices>

Year 2 Swimming:

This starts next Wednesday for our Year 2 children. Please make sure your child has their costume (no bikinis please) and a towel in school. Speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions. Sessions cost £2.90 per week or £29.00 for the term.

After school Spanish club: One of our parents is hoping to offer an after school Spanish Club but at present there are not enough children signed up to make the club viable. If you are interested in your child learning Spanish then please contact the School Office.

After School clubs: These start next week. There is a space in each of the following clubs: Cookery, Nature, Hockey and Multi-sports. If you are interested please contact the School Office. First come first served.

Dates for your Diary 2017

Friday 13th January - Voyager Class Cake Sale
Week beginning Monday 9th January - After School Clubs start this week.
Wednesday 11th January - Year 2 swimming starts.
Tuesday 24th January - Reception Family Learning 9-10am
Wednesday 8th February - Whole School Family Learning Evening 6-7pm
Half term holidays 13th- 17th February 2017.

Cake Sales: It is the turn of **Voyager Class** on Friday 13th January. Please make or buy some cakes for them to sell.
Thank you ☺