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Dear Parents/Carers

A very Happy New Year to you all. The children have shared their highlights of the holidays and it seems that everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable break. Please find attached our curriculum map for Term 2, broadly outlining the topics we will be covering in the coming weeks.

Unfortunately there are some seasonal viruses around which affected a few of the children over the holidays. If your child is ill, please remember to telephone or email the office on each day that your child is absent. If you are late arriving with your child, it is essential that you sign them in at the office, remembering to order a school lunch if appropriate.

This first half of term Mrs Cox is setting and marking the homework. A piece of written work and/or an Active Learn maths game will be set most weeks on a Wednesday to be handed in on the following Monday. Our longer piece of homework will be based on our topic 'Meet the Greeks' and will be a piece for display. After half-term, Mrs Pogose is setting homework on Fridays, to be handed in by the following Thursday. The turnaround for marking and re-setting is quite short as we choose to give the children rather than ourselves the luxury of the weekend time! Please do let us know if there are any problems with homework or if your child is uncertain about what is required.

Spellings are given out on Fridays and are tested the following Thursday. We always go over the spellings first and look at any letter patterns or ways of helping children to remember the spellings. Stickers and house-points are given for effort with spellings at home as well as in school. We stick the new spellings in the books on Thursdays so please ensure that the spelling books are in school every Thursday.

Please can we remind parents about PE kit. We found that a number of children were without PE kit towards the end of last term and some had PE shoes that no longer fit. Please make sure your child has training shoes or plimsolls, shorts and a T-shirt for PE lessons. Although it is likely that most of our lessons will be indoors during Term 2, we do like to get out into the fresh air if possible, so sweat pants or tracksuit bottoms and some sort of top are useful to have in the PE bags at this time of year. We occasionally take advantage of a spare PE slot, so please make sure your child's PE kit and especially their PE shoes are in school all week.

Please continue to read with your child as often as possible. Ideally this will be for 10 to 15 minutes daily and may include you hearing your child read, you reading to/with your child or a discussion of what has been read, predicting what will come next, how characters will develop or how a book will end. The children are welcome to read books from home or from our small class library and we have a weekly school library slot, when the children can choose a book to take home. This term the children will be recording their daily reading in their new school reading record books to encourage this important skill.

Thank you for your continued support, particularly to the parents who have helped us with our outings and in the classroom. The children had a lovely trip to The Living Rainforest at the end of last term-thank you to the parents who helped us with that visit. We will be visiting the Greek galleries at the Ashmolean museum later this term. Parent consultations will be held after half term but in the meantime if you need to talk to us, please find us before registration for anything that needs to be shared immediately, or after school for a quick chat, or if necessary, make an appointment with either of us.

Many thanks from the Year 3 team.

Jane Cox, Rebecca Pogose, Becky Ellery & Marie Thompson