



# POTTEN END C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and I wish you all a very Happy New Year. Mrs Hingston and I would like to thank you very much for all your gifts.

Literacy – We will be continuing to look at David Almond's book Skellig and focusing on using a range of sentence types, ensuring that there is cohesion between paragraphs and the use of adverbials to engage the reader. The non-fiction writing will focus on reports and explanation texts.

Guided Reading – We will continue to listen to the children read on a regular basis and will record any comments in your child's reading record books. The focus for this term will be on comprehension skills.

Mathematics - The new format for teaching mathematics has started extremely well and this term I will be teaching BIDMAS (order of operations), algebra, long division, angles, area and perimeter, more work on fractions, ratio and proportion, volume and measures, line graphs and pie charts and sequences. Wrapped into this learning will be opportunities to apply the understanding to problem solving.

Science - In the spring term we will be studying 'Inheritance and evolution'. Understanding how living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago. That variation will occur in a family as we are not identify to our parents. Finally the last part of the learning will be around how plants and animals have adapted to their environment and that this adaptation may lead to evolution.

Topic - Through the spring term we will be studying the Ancient Civilisation of the Shang Dynasty. The design and technology will be linked into this topic when we look at foods from around the world.

Computing: – the children will be using animation software and will be creating their own live film or animation.

R.E - the children will continue with learning about Buddhism and Christianity but will be focusing on the Easter Story.

P.E - Year 5 P.E sessions will take place on Monday and Thursday so I would be grateful if you would ensure that your child has their P.E kit in school on these days. For indoor PE they need shorts and a white t-shirt and for outdoor PE shorts or tracksuit bottoms, trainers, white t-shirt and a sweat shirt.

Music – Initially the focus will be on preparations for Young Voices at the O2 but from February the children will be looking at the history of music and the importance of music in society.

Homework will follow the same format as that in the autumn term. There will be pack of activities to be completed (one per week) and then a maths homework that will come home each week. Please could you also encourage your child to be reading regularly; they have been set a reading challenge for this half-term to read 3 books and then rate them for the rest of the class.

I hope that this provides a useful insight into the exciting work we will be enjoying this term. If you have any questions that you would like to ask me about this letter or regarding the homework, do not hesitate to come in and speak to me.

Kind regards

**Mrs Karen Sharpling**