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Happy New Year!

We hope you have had an fantastic Christmas—it was lovely to hear all about your lovely celebrations. The children have all returned with such big smiles and full of energy—they really are ready for a splendid Spring term!

Hello and welcome to our new starters too! We are sure you and your families are excited to start Nursery and we are so happy to welcome you to the South Stanley Infant and Nursery School family.

Grown ups-please be assured, we all work hard to make sure your child is happy, safe and enjoys their learning, whether your child is new to us, or if we know them well. Remember, you can always speak to us if you need any information, help, or would just like to know more

about what happens at school!





Being safe online is something we are always talking to the children about, reminding them that they should always ask before going online and be near a grown up when using tablets, laptops or mobile phones, and that they should tell a grown up straight

away if they see something that upsets them.

We know you will be reinforcing these important messages at home.

Remember to wrap up warm in the cold winter weather. Please make sure all items of clothing are <u>named</u> including gloves and hats so they can be returned if misplaced! Thank you



This half term our topic is weather, and we have our fingers crossed for fun in the snow! Even if we don't get to make snowmen, we will be finding out about lots of different types of weather and might even make snow of our own in our messy play! We will also learn about animals and their homes in winter, and will support local wildlife with our bird feeding station.

Please remember to ask your child about what we have been doing at school - and to send in a WOW star to share their successes at home!



Underpinning everything we do will be our continued focus on 'communication and language'—talking to the children about what they are doing, teaching them new words and helping them to use these new words when they talk and when explaining their thinking.



We will also be enjoying a new book hook every week—getting to know our stories really well—joining in refrains, sharing our thoughts about the characters and storylines, and deciding if we would recommend this book to our friends!

Some ideas to support your child at home...

Communication, Language and Literacy

Enjoy sharing story books, from your book bag, the library or you own collections. Talk about the pictures and what the children have heard, focusing on

who is in the story. What do we know about the characters? What do they look like? How do they behave? Do you like or dislike them?

Play silly rhyming games e.g. make up silly rhyming strings that go with your name e.g. Mrs Fagan, sagan, magan,

Understanding the world

As we think about seasons and the associated weather, talk about the different activities you and your family enjoy at different times of the year e.g. going to the park in the spring or sledging in the winter.

Maths

Explore number problems in a fun way. For example, count out four apples...eat one! What has happened to the amount? ...the amount has got smaller/less.

Or, Put out 2 forks at tea time...add two more. What has happened to the amount of forks? ...now there are more.

We are not working on formal addition or subtraction, but working on gaining an awareness that amounts change as we add or take things away from a set of objects, and encouraging the language more and less.

G Expressive arts and designs

Act out your favourite stories, or stories you enjoy from your book bag. Can you use things around the house to make props for your story?

Physical development

We continue to work on having a correct, comfortable pencil grip, so keep reminding your child to fix their grip when they are 'writing', drawing or colouring.

As you go about your daily life have fun with movement challenges! Can your child slither, shuffle, roll, crawl, run, hop along?

Personal, Social and Emotional development

Play turn taking games with your child, such as board games, 'I spy' or I went to the shop and I bought.... We work on having respect for all our toys in school, so encourage and praise your child for tidying up at home too!

Thank you for all your efforts with homework challenges.



Keep enjoying them, and the 'reading for pleasure' stories in your child's book bags.