



# St Minver School

Head of School: Mrs A Warren

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all. We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas. The children have had a great first week at school and have settled back into our class routines with ease. It has been wonderful to watch them reconnect with their friends and to pick up their learning so easily – well done to them all!

As usual, we're looking forward to a busy half term and we're writing this letter to keep you up to date with what your child will be learning during the weeks ahead, although we're sure some things will change as we go along.

**'How to be a Superhero'** is our topic title this half term. The children will be learning about 'real life' superheroes, including people who help us such as doctors, vets, lifeguards and police officers. They will also be learning about significant heroic people in history, such as polar explorers and astronauts. They will consider how they can be superheroes themselves and what personal qualities they should demonstrate to be a superhero. We will use our school motto – 'Be Brave, be Kind, Belong – as a stimulus for discussion. All superheroes are brave and kind! Alongside this topic the children will be learning about the seasons, looking at seasonal changes in the weather and day length and the impact that these things have on daily life.

**Literacy:** Learning continues to be supported by and structured around quality texts. Through stories we will continue to work on the skills the children need to become literate; listening, vocabulary, questioning, sentence-building, storytelling and phonics. Phonics and reading are at the heart of the curriculum for children in Reception and Year 1. The children will continue to have daily phonics lessons and group reading sessions three times each week. Group reading books will be sent home every Thursday and the children can change their 'book to share' as often as they like. We are currently reviewing our practice and have plans to start sending home additional reading books alongside the group reading book. Further information on this will follow.

**Reading at home:** We encourage all children to read to you every day at home. We cannot stress enough the importance of regular reading at home. It has a huge impact on progress and confidence, providing opportunities for your child to practise the skills they've learned in school. Ten minutes a day makes such a difference! After reading with your child, please write a comment in their yellow reading record, it is helpful for us to know how

**Maths:** The Year 1 children have started the term with a unit called 'Place Value Within 20' and have begun by working on identifying tens and ones in numbers to 20. They will go on to work on estimating, comparing and ordering numbers to 20. Afterwards they will work on an addition and subtraction unit to consolidate the skills they learned last term. The Reception children have been working on geometry this

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week, looking at shapes with four sides. After this unit they will work on the composition of numbers to 5 and then move on to mass and capacity.

**PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development):** Our theme this term is 'Dreams and Goals' and we will be learning how to persevere when facing challenges. We will set achievable goals for ourselves and work towards them, not giving up until we reach them and encouraging each other along the way. We will think about what we might like to do when we grow up and learn about the astronaut Helen Sharman, a real-life superhero, who chased her dreams and believed in herself. Role models like this will help us to see that we can achieve anything we want to in life (with a little bit of hard work and determination). Finally, we will recognise what it feels like to be proud of ourselves and of each other.

**PE:** This half term, the Year 1 children will have PE lessons every Wednesday and Thursday and will need their PE kit on these days. The Reception children have a PE lesson alongside the Year 1 children every Thursday, as well as daily physical development sessions – no PE kit required. All the children have daily access to our wonderful outdoor learning environment – please ensure that they always have their coat because we do try to get outside whatever the weather! Wellies are a good idea too, a named pair which they can keep at school is really useful!

**Expectations in Daymer Class:** At the beginning of the school year, we set out some of the hopes we have for the children in our class; the things that we hope we can help them to achieve (aside from just the educational things). Throughout this second term we will work on some new things and ensure that all the children have the opportunity to refine them. Here are some of the things on our list:

- Participate in learning opportunities outside of school - walk in the local area to visit Porthilly Church
- Manage 'self-care', for example, putting coats on independently, getting ready for PE – putting on PE kits, taking off and putting on shoes and socks, looking after personal possessions (not losing jumpers!)
- Understanding and demonstrating three of the characteristics of effective learning – perseverance, concentration, exploring new things
- Be able to talk about a significant person in history and recognise their achievements

Here's to a happy and productive half term!

With best wishes,

Lisa Cray and Lucie Merson

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