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Headteacher: Jude Long

5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome the start of the Spring Term and a New year. This term the teaching in Class 1 will be covered by myself, Mrs Gill until she goes on maternity leave and then Ms. White, plus Mrs Blythe (on a Friday afternoon).

If you need to speak to any of us at the end of the day, please let us know when you get to the front of the line and we will ask you to wait with your child, until all the children have been reunited with their parents. You can also email us with queries at the addresses below. Our topic this half term is '**What is it like in the Winter in the UK and in the Arctic?**' Please find a planning overview for this half term attached detailing the curriculum areas we will be covering. It also includes some general information.

Please can you keep an eye on the weather and send in a waterproof coat every day plus a hat and mittens when it is chilly? **It is important that all nursery children have a change of clothes in their bags each day.** This is not only in case of toileting accidents but also in case of spillages playing in the water, at lunch or snack time or sometimes simply falling over in the mud!

As before, the school fruit scheme does not extend to Nursery children, so please can you send at least one portion of fruit or vegetables per day in your nursery child's bag for morning and afternoon snacks? We share the fruit between them, so they all get a selection. Please only send water in their water bottles for the classroom. At lunchtime all children are given water in a cup. All children are offered milk at snack times which is free if children like or want it.

We will continue to assess where children are currently at using our ongoing informal observations of them as we interact with them daily. In addition, we will continue to use the **Northumberland School Readiness Checker** at regular intervals (approximately every 6 months) to take a 'snapshot' of each child's development to make sure they are on track to be ready for Reception or Y1 when the time comes.

**If there are any areas of their development where we need to offer more support, we will of course be talking to you about this as our aim is to work in partnership with you to help them catch up.**

#### **Reading books:**

**Reception children** now have two 'reading books' or two 'reading tasks' each week. These will usually be changed **on Thursdays** so please make sure they are in your child's bag from **Thursday** onwards. One of the books your child brings home is their '**reading**' book (**I read to**



**you)** which they have already read in school. The second book matches the first one for the phonics level but is new to them called **'a book bag book' (we read together)**; they will continue to choose a **'library book' (you read to me)**.

**Nursery children** will continue to bring home a **'library book'** that they have chosen. This is for you to read to them and for them to talk to you about what is happening in the pictures. Encourage them to join in repeated phrases as they become more familiar with the story.

**Reading diaries:** All children have a diary to record the books they have taken home. It is really helpful to us if you could make comments in their diary from time to time e.g. if they really liked the book, didn't like it, read it fluently or struggled with it etc. If there is nothing in particular you want to comment, please just date and initial it when you have read the book with them.

#### **Reception Phonics Library:**

Your child will continue to have the opportunity to choose one of these resources. Whenever your child returns their resource, we will let them change it for another one to use at home to reinforce their phonics skills in a fun way.

**Please don't hesitate to request a chat with one of us after school, if you have any queries, however small about this or any other matters about your child. We are always happy to make a time to talk with you.**

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs Melanie Wilkinson**, EYFS Lead Teacher (Monday to Thursday mornings, Monday and Wednesday afternoons)

Email: [melanie.wilkinson@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:melanie.wilkinson@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk)

**Mrs Naomi Gill** EYFS Teacher (Tuesday, and Thursday afternoons, Friday mornings)

Email: [naomi.powell@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:naomi.powell@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk)

**Mrs Karen Blythe**, Class 2 Teacher (EYFS Friday afternoons)

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