



Year 1

Withycombe Raleigh C of E Primary School
Withycombe Village Road, Exmouth, EX8 3BA, Tel: 01395 263397

January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and we hope you all had a restful Christmas break! This term our topic title is 'The UK Rocks'. We have included a copy of the topic map to give you more detail of some of the areas we will be covering. If you have any expertise in this area or any resources please do let us know! This links really well with our **Geography** and understanding the local environment.

Our **Science** focus this term will get us exploring weather and then animals including humans. We will be identifying pets and other common animals and learning about herbivores, omnivores and carnivores. We will hopefully have a visit later in the term which will give the children first-hand experience of caring for animals. We will get further information about this to you as soon as we can.

In **Literacy**, the children will continue to build on their sentence writing skills. This term we will be continuing to support the children to practice their handwriting so that their letters are formed correctly and they are using capital letters and lower case letters appropriately.

We will continue to have a big focus on **Phonics**, particularly on the children's ability to apply phonics to their reading and using it as a strategy to support their spelling. Your on-going support with regular reading (**at least five times a week**) is absolutely invaluable and will benefit your child enormously in confidence, pace and fluency. Please refer to the updated Y1 Common Exceptional Words sheet that we have sent home and if there were gaps in that phase. You may also have had a pack to practise the 'tricky words' or digraphs your child needs to revisit.

Please ensure that you write and/or sign the **reading record book** so that we know your child has read. We do welcome your comments regarding how your child is coping with their current reading level. We are really focusing on **books being read 3 times** before they are changed; this really builds confidence, skill, pace and fluency in reading.

In **Maths** we will be consolidating our learning so far this year by giving them opportunities to apply their knowledge in new contexts. It is vital that all the children have a really solid sense of place value and are confident with counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. They will also strengthen their understanding of shape and pattern.

Please can we remind you that it is really important your child has their own **drink bottle** in school, which is water only and clearly labelled. As well as this, please can all children have a **book bag in school**. The temperature has most definitely dropped this week and it was pretty cold before Xmas so it is really important that children have a **coat** every day and any other named items (hats, gloves etc) that will keep them warm whilst they are out in the playground for long periods of time.

We are welcoming Miss King to our team who will be working in Barn owl class and Miss Adams who will be working in Rabbit class, as Consortium student teachers.

Thank you for your continued support,

The Year One Team