

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school and I hope you had a wonderful festive break with your families!

I could not be more excited about this term as we're putting Woolacombe in space! We'll be sending a camera up with a near space balloon and using our wonderful mathematicians to gauge the right day to do this and how to successfully retrieve our footage!

A lot of our work this term will be centred around this 'big experience' so our writing will be instructional- how to create a successful near space launch-then using the wonderful footage to create narratives about space travel. Our maths will be about how to predict the speed and direction of the balloon as well as how metrics such as weight will affect the whole launch. This is such an exciting experience to be involved in, and some of our children will also need to retrieve the balloon from wherever it lands, which will be an incredible opportunity!

In almost equally exciting news, our new backpacks are ready to purchase from the school office. They will solve the rucksack issue as sometimes children need a little more space for their things, especially in year 6.

It's very cold at the moment so Laura has asked that we remind you about warm P.E. clothing to make sure we can still get outside and engage in as much sport as possible!

Another reminder about lunchboxes- we need to have all lunches in boxes rather than bags, as the crows are stealing lunches! I've read that crows are among the cleverest animals so would like to keep positive relationships with them as they've been known to bear grudges. Please help me in this regard as I spend a lot of time 'shoo-ing'.

Some dates coming up which will be of interest, although we'll confirm exact dates nearer the time:

The week beginning 29th January will be our literacy focus week, so there will be some workshops available to attend based on how we can best work together on our literacy provision.

The week beginning 12th March will be our maths workshop week.

The final week of term 26th March will have our SATs meeting, where I can talk you through what the arrangements are for the statutory tests in May.

If you have any questions, please try to catch me in school or call the office. As always, I welcome emails (d.polak@swsf.org) if you're not able to make it in! The support from all of you has been fantastic, and I can't wait to get started on another exciting term!

Dan Polak