Freethorpe Primary School

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Wednesday 14th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! It has been a pleasure welcoming Buzzard Class back to school after the holidays and to see that the children enjoyed a happy and restful break. The children have returned with a wonderful approach to the start of the new term, and settled quickly into classroom routines. I would like to say thank you for your patience and support during the recent school closure, and to share how proud I was of the children for the positive, resilient way they embraced online learning! I'm so delighted with the strong start Buzzard Class has made and look forward to celebrating the progress they will continue to make in the weeks ahead.

This half term, our first topic is Let's Explore!, during which the children will be working as explorers, geographers and scientists. It was lovely to see the children's online work linked to this new project and to learn all about the different places they have visited in the past. Throughout the topic, we will be exploring a range of exploration tools, both old and new, considering the maps and navigation skills used by early explorers compared to those used today. The children will also learn how explorers record and share their findings.

PE will continue to take place on a Friday this half term, please can children arrive at school with their PE kit and comfortable shoes. Year 5 will also be swimming on a Monday. I kindly ask that Year 5 children also come into school on a Monday in their PE kit as well.

Myself and Mrs Buckley will continue to be the teaching staff for Buzzard class. I will also continue to be out of class on a Wednesday morning, and Mrs Buckley will continue to teach the class during this time.

For the upcoming term, children will continue to have two types of home learning tasks. These include Times Table Rock Stars to support times table practice, and reading using a school-provided book, which should be recorded in their reading records. Login details for Times Table Rock Stars will be provided. If your child experiences any difficulties accessing the programme, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Please ensure all of your child's belongings are clearly named, including coats, hats, lunch boxes and water bottles (filled with water only, please). Coats or fleeces are especially important as the weather gets colder, so that children can stay warm during break-times. Please send your child with a healthy snack (no chocolate or crisps) for break-time. Children are often very hungry by lunchtime, and a snack helps keep them going. School dinners should be ordered online in advance. It can be helpful to discuss the choice of dinner, or prepare a packed lunch, with your child for reassurance. Remember to bring in the red communication book every day and to inform us of any changes to your child's usual pick-up arrangements. Some children have been feeling tired since returning to school, so please ensure they have a good night's sleep to help them stay alert and happy during the day.

As always, I am around at the beginning and end of the school day and am very happy to have a chat about anything you would like to discuss, no matter how big or small. Please do feel free to catch me if you have any questions, concerns or updates to share. I am always happy to listen and to help in any way I can.
Thank you for your continued support, here's to a wonderful year ahead!

Best wishes,
Mr Browne