Freethorpe Primary School

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Wednesday 14th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and thank you so much for your support and understanding through a tricky first week back. We were both so impressed with the hard work and resilience the children exhibited getting to grips with online learning and completing tasks at home. We loved seeing your photos of the children's activities in the snow and of their dogs, comparing them to the dogs Shackleton took on his expedition.

We were equally impressed with their research projects on the rainforests of Borneo and the lives of orangutans. Many beautiful poems were written following on from our Winter Words Writing Workshop, some which included similes, alliteration and even rhyme. We loved reading their diary entries from their days in the snow and we will be using these recount skills in the coming weeks to write our expedition diaries as part of our 'Let's Explore!' project.

A huge thank you from both of us for supporting your children in continuing their school work at home. It was much appreciated, especially at such short notice when many of you were also juggling work and other commitments!

From January 2026 the staff in our class are:

Monday to Wednesday: **Mrs. Newton** (Class Teacher)

Thursday & Friday: **Mrs. Collier** (Class Teacher)

Every day: **Miss Errington** (Teaching Assistant)

Mrs. Newton and Mrs. Collier are always available at the start and the end of the day if you want to discuss anything, however small. Our main concern is that children feel happy and enthusiastic coming into school so please let us know anything we can do to facilitate this.

Curriculum

This half term, our first topic is 'Let's Explore!', and the children will be working as explorers, geographers and scientists. We will be looking at exploration tools new and old. What maps and navigation skills were used by the earliest explorers and what tools are used now? How do explorers document their findings? You can support your child's learning at home by looking at maps and atlases and by exploring how we know which way is north, south, east and west.

PE will be on a **Wednesday**. Please can children come to school in their PE kit with suitable shoes for sport.

Show and Tell will be every Thursday afternoon.

Homework

Reading we are keen to develop children's love of reading and their skills of fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Each child will receive a Reading Record to take home. Please complete it every time your child reads aloud to you. We will collect the Reading Records once a week and give the children a house point for each time they read which they can then spend in the merit shop.

Spellings The children will have spellings related to the sounds / spelling rules they have learnt this week. A sheet will be sent home every week for them to practise what they have learnt in class.

A couple of reminders.

- Please name ALL of your child's belongings, coats, hats, lunch boxes, water bottles (filled with water only please).
- Please send your child with a healthy snack (no chocolate or crisps) for break-time. Children are often very hungry by lunch-time and a snack helps keep them going.
- Please remember a sunhat if the weather is warm, and apply suncream before they come into school. When it gets colder, they will need a coat or fleece for break-times.
- Please ensure school dinners are ordered online in advance. It is helpful to share the choice of dinner, or if a home pack, with your child for their reassurance.
- Remember to bring in their red communication book everyday and let us know about any changes to their normal pick up arrangements.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We are really excited for a wonderful new term ahead and look forward to seeing your children thrive and grow.

With best wishes,

Mrs Newton and Mrs Collier

Year 2/3 Teacher