



**St Nicholas CE VA Primary School**

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**Be the best you can be**

*I can do all things through God who strengthens me.*

*Philippians 4: 13*

Every voice heard, every day a new chance, everyone exploring opportunities

Dear Families

Welcome back to a new term and a new year! We are so happy to be back together in class, with lots of exciting things to learn – and some hard work! We are also welcoming Mrs Robertson, who will be based in Oak class, although she will also be working with other classes across the school.

This term we are starting by learning about Darwin, his life, his journeys and his revolutionary theory of evolution. On the way, we will be learning science about how animals are classified and geography as we follow his voyages, as well as improving our observational drawing by making detailed drawing of animals, shells and fossils. We will be using IT to research this topic and to present our findings. The topic also links with our RE topic, which will look at the relationship between religion and science; this was a problem for Darwin when his theory went against the established Christian ideas about creation.

As well as this, we will of course be continuing with maths, spelling, English and music. Maths will again be taught in year groups: year 5 with Ms Watson and year 6 with Mrs Salisbury and Mrs Ferguson. Spelling will also be taught in year groups. Year 5 will work with Mrs Roots, while year 6 will work with Mrs Salisbury and Mrs Ferguson.

Mrs Salisbury will be setting homework for both maths and SPaG (spelling and grammar). Homework will be set on Fridays, due in the next Wednesday.

PE days will be Tuesday and Wednesday. Children will no longer wear PE kit to school, so please could you help your child to make sure they always have their PE kit in school. In Oak class, the children may bring in their own materials in a *small* pencil case, which needs to fit in their trays. Pens, pencils, etc, will, of course, still be available in the classroom as well.

Some exciting news for this year; we are setting up a link with a French class in a school near Lille. Our class will write to them in French and they will practise their English on us. Don't worry; they will have lots of support with the writing!

Now that government guidance has changed, Oak class enter school in the morning through the main entrance, no longer through the door to the car park, and leave through the same door. We will be holding whole-school assemblies and events again. However, please be assured that we are doing our utmost to keep the children safe and will still keep windows open and ensure frequent hand sanitising.

This term promises to be busy and fun. Please ask Mrs Salisbury or Mrs Ferguson if you or your child has any queries. We will continue to use Google classroom to share information and resources, and you all have our email. We look forward to working together with you and your children.

Best wishes

Mrs Salisbury and Mrs Ferguson

