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*Widening Horizons, Raising Aspirations*

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to Term 5, we hope you all had a great Easter break.

**Foundation Stage – Elmer and Paddington**

Our topic this term is Amazing Animals and we will be finding out about different animal groups, where they live, what they look like, what they eat and any other fascinating facts we can find out. Each week we will be focusing on a different group of animals through both the teacher led tasks and child led choices. We hope to have some animals come in and visit us too, including looking at the life cycle of a butterfly and hatching our own butterflies.

We are excited to be starting 'Drawing Club' with the children, this is a fun story based session which allows the teachers to extend the children's ambitious vocabulary and allows the children the freedom to be creative not just with their drawings but also their special 'codes'. 'Codes' are opportunities for the children to write words / sentences / numbers that make something special happen to their drawing.

In Phonics we are applying all the phonemes that we have learnt so far to read and write longer words. We will be listening to the children read and sending home new levelled reading books for you to enjoy at home, along with the online books. We are asking that the children bring in their purple home reading record everyday so that if it is their turn to read staff can record in the book and they can then change their book.

The focus for Maths this term is numbers over 10 – recognising what they look like and knowing how much they are worth. We will then move onto applying our number knowledge to help us with addition and subtraction problems, working out how many we have each time. Finally, the children will be consolidating their learning about shapes.

We will be continuing to develop our new learning environments and establishing the routines and expectations for using these areas. The children have really enjoyed being able to use the outdoor classroom and the new layout of the indoor classrooms.

Thank you for all your continued support and we look forward to another fun filled term.

**Year 1 – Jeffers and Carle**

Welcome back to Term 5, the children will be working hard this term on building their independence and resilience in all their learning. This term we have planned lots of exciting learning opportunities. Throughout our English lessons we will be looking at some exciting new books, our first book is 'Lila and the secret of rain' and our second book for the term is 'On Sudden Hill'. In Maths, we will continue to look at numbers up to 50 and understanding place value and use this knowledge to support our addition and subtraction.

We will be continuing to work on our Phonics, focusing on preparing the children for the upcoming phonics screener next term and working on any gaps in their phonological knowledge. We will also continue with our more structured reading sessions in order to support children apply what they learn within their phonics.

During our Geography learning we will be looking at our local area and comparing our local area to another in the world. In RSHE, we will be exploring Relationship and looking at our relationships with our families and friends. Science this term we will be exploring plants and looking at how we can grow and nurture plants, which we will be doing during our Forest School sessions – more information will be sent out. In Design and Technology we will be looking at healthy food and making smoothies.

PE this term will be on a Monday and Thursday. Monday will be Infant agility and Thursday will be Kwik Cricket, outside, so please make sure children are dressed appropriately.

We look forward to another fun filled term with you all.

**The Early Years Team**