Holy Trinity
C of E Primary Academy and Nursery
Hope Within, Hope Beyond

Proud to be part of
St Chad's
Academies Trust

Dear Grown-Ups,

Welcome to the start of Spring Term 1. We hope you all had a happy and restful break. We're excited to begin a new term full of learning, curiosity and special moments with your children, and we'd love to share what's coming up.

This half term, our learning will continue to be play-based and child-centred, supporting the children's communication, social, physical and early mathematical development. We have quite a few new starters joining us from Bumblebees, and a few brand newbies. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to talk to us!

This half term, we are moving away from using ClassDojo and focussing mainly on contact through Blossom. Please can you make sure that you have the parent app downloaded onto your device. If you have multiple adults at home that would like to be linked, speak to Ms Falcao or Mrs McCullough and we will be happy to help.

A key focus for us will be families. We'll be exploring the questions *"What do our families look like?"* and *"Are all families the same?"* Through stories, discussions and creative activities, children will be encouraged to share their own experiences and celebrate the diversity of families around them. As part of this, we'll be building our own family tree, using photographs sent in from home alongside children's own drawings.

Stories and rhymes will play a central role in our learning this term. Some of the hook books we'll be sharing include *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, *Owl Babies*, and *The Feather* by Dot Cleeve. Alongside this, we'll continue to learn and enjoy poems through Poetry Basket, helping children develop a love of language, rhythm and rhyme while building their confidence to join in.

In maths, we'll be developing early number skills through everyday play. The children will be:

- beginning to say numbers in order, sometimes correctly,
- exploring ordinality (the order of numbers),
- developing cardinality (how many) by taking or giving two or three objects from a group,
- starting to notice and recognise numerals (number symbols) in their environment.

We have lots of exciting events and special days to look forward to this term, including:

- RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch, taking place throughout the term until Friday 14th February, where we'll be observing and talking about the birds we see outdoors.
- Storytelling Week, including Friday 6th February, when we'll be celebrating stories in extra special ways.
- NSPCC Number Day, a fun opportunity to enjoy numbers together.
- Children's Mental Health Week, beginning on Tuesday 9th February, helping children talk about feelings, friendships and wellbeing.
- Safer Internet Day, where we'll explore simple messages about staying safe in an age-appropriate way.
- Valentine's Day, on Saturday 14th February, celebrating kindness, care and friendship.

We are also hoping to invite parents and carers in for a storytelling session during the term. This will be a lovely opportunity to share stories together and celebrate the children's love of books — more details will follow soon.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and involvement. We are really looking forward to all the learning, conversations and memories this term will bring.

Warmest wishes,
The Butterflies Team