# Temple Guiting Church of England School

Monday 2nd November 2026

Class 1

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a relaxing break over half term. This term we will be starting our new topic called 'Sparkle and Shine' where we plan to teach about a variety of festivals and celebrations. This will include the children learning about the traditions of Bonfire Night, Remembrance, Hannukah, Birthdays and Christmas. There will also be a focus upon celebrating differences and understanding the importance of being unique. Please see the attached topic web for more detail and how you can specifically support at home.

**YR Homework**

'Phonics Packs' will continue to come home each Friday. The aim is that your child will share the phonics cards with you and say the associated phoneme (sound). Please could they practice putting the phoneme cards together to word-build. It would also be hugely beneficial if they could practice the letter formation for these, the accompanying phonics sheet sent home on a Friday will help with the formation rhymes.

Keep an eye out for the tricky words which will also be sent home in your child's phonics pack. These words cannot be segmented and need to be learnt by sight. Hopefully the word cards will help with that instant recall needed. Once they are confident in reading these words, they need to have a go at writing these words (without copying them). Please could you ensure that the phonics packs, reading diaries and reading books are in bookbags everyday. These will continue to be changed on a Thursday/Friday.

All children are now in guided reading groups based on assessments. Once we are confident that your child is able to blend to read words they will then move on to basic books with words. The aim with the reading books is that your child builds fluency at home. They will already be familiar with the book as they would have read it at school 2-3 times in their guided reading group.

**Y1 Homework**

Last term we were mainly revising the digraphs/trigraphs taught towards the end of Reception. This half term we will begin Phase 5, where the children will learn lots of alternative sounds, e.g. for ai – ay, a-e, a, etc. We usually learn 4 new sounds a week so their phonics packs will be updated more from this half term. Please do not worry if your child takes longer to grasp these new sounds. We will begin with recognising these sounds in isolation when shown a flashcard, this will then lead to reading and finally spelling. It is important that the children practice their flashcards as in June they will be sitting the 'Phonics Screening Assessment' which is undertaken in every Year 1 class nationally. I will give more details of what this involves after Christmas.

The weekly spelling tests and maths homework books will continue on a Tuesday.

**Nativity – 'The Hoity Toity Angel'**

Towards the end of this half term the children will all be taking part in our infant nativity. The children love being a part of this, and although the Reception children do not have any of the main parts they form a strong part of our choir. Some of the Y1 children this year will have speaking parts, be a dancer or in our Christmas band. Please look out for the dates in our newsletter as it is a ticket only event. Nearer the time we will send home a costume letter.

Kind Regards
Mrs C. Cotton