Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas and New Year. Please find above information regarding our learning in Bowfell for the first part of the Spring term.

**Reading books – FAO Reception/Year One**

Reading books should be brought into school each morning and Year One should place theirs in the white basket which is located in Helvellyn classroom. Reception books should be placed in the red tub on Mrs Haslam’s desk by the children themselves. Reading books will be changed on **Tuesdays** and **Fridays** only. Please be mindful that it is not important how quickly your child reads a book or how many they read over the course of the week. Re-reading texts helps to improve fluency and comprehension and sharing story books from home and magazines/ comics is also a brilliant way of developing a lifelong love of reading. Please can we stress the importance of listening to your child read and ask that this happens 5 times each week. This doesn’t need to be for a lengthy period of time, 5 minutes is the ideal amount of time for children in Reception and 10 minutes plus for children in Year One. Please also make a short comment and sign your child’s reading record each time they have read.

**Nursery books**

If children in Nursery would like to take a book home to share, there will be a basket of books to choose from on the carpet each morning – please take home, enjoy and return when finished.

**Lunches**

Please can parents of children in Nursery and Reception continue to discuss with their child the lunch menu for each day before they come into school to ensure they are happy with their choice.

**Home time**

All the children in Bowfell class understand that at the end of the day they line up next to the wall, one behind another until they are told they can go by a member of staff. Please do not usher your child or call to them to come to you; it is vital that staff ensure each child is released individually to their responsible adult. This can sometimes take a little time if parents/carers aren’t immediately visible and we politely ask that you are patient if you can see your child further down the queue.

**Mornings**

Reception children have settled well into their morning routine of finding their name log and completing activities at the table. Year One will continue to complete their tasks in Helvellyn classroom, located adjoining to Bowfell before the bell rings at 8.45am after which time they will come next door for register and welcome time. Nursery children will also continue have their name logs on the carpet to place in the basket on arrival and will have resources to play with alongside staff on the carpet.

Please continue to encourage your child to enter school as independently as possible. You can do this by allowing children to hang up their own coats/bags on their pegs, putting reading books in the basket and their book bag in the box themselves. Nursery and Reception now have their own labelled book bag box located next to the Nursery coat pegs and Year One have a box in Helvellyn classroom.

Thank you so much to those of you who have really embraced our busy mornings and have helped to support us by leaving promptly. If your child is happy and settled, we ask that you say goodbye and leave rather than waiting for the bell to ring. Lots of people and noise is unsettling for many, but especially our youngest children. We pride ourselves on our open door policy and enjoy welcoming you into the classroom, however it is becoming increasingly busy each morning and we want to maintain our calm learning environment as much as possible. If you are however, still in class when the bell rings, please can you ensure that you leave promptly so that we are able to continue with our morning routine. Any parents/carers remaining after this time will be politely asked to leave.

Please ensure all children bring with them each day a labelled water bottle. Year One water bottles should be placed in Helvellyn classroom whilst Nursery and Reception water bottles should be left beside the sink in Bowfell classroom.

**Nursery trays**

Children in Nursery will have their own labelled tray located in Bowfell classroom. This will be used to store any letters which are sent home on days your child may not attend Nursery. Please check and empty your child’s tray regularly.

**Clothing**

Please ensure your child has spare clothing on their pegs at all times. Please can this include socks and underwear. Spare clothes do not have to be uniform, just something they are able to change into incase of any accidents. All children in Bowfell class must have a puddle suit/waterproof coat/trousers and wellies in order to access our sandpit, mud kitchen and water wall. Please send your child appropriately dressed for the weather – we go outside no matter rain or shine!

**PE**

PE lessons this half term will take place on a Wednesday and Thursday. Kits should be left on pegs and will be sent home at the end of each half term for washing. Please ensure that all uniform including PE kit and pumps are clearly labelled with your child’s name and include a hoody, long bottoms and trainers for outdoor PE, as well as shorts, t-shirt and pumps for indoor lessons. Some kits may have been muddled during changing times last half term! Please could all PE kits be checked to ensure they belong to the correct child.

**Letters**

On the shelf next to the door you will find a black box. Please use this for any slips/money that need to go to Mrs Coker in the office. Please do not hand them directly to staff.

**Junk modelling**

We continue to appreciate any donations of recycling such as tubes, boxes, plastic pots etc for our junk modelling area.

**Show and Tell**

Please ensure that items for show and tell are in a bag and left on your child’s peg on arrival at school. Show and Tell for Nursery will take place on a Friday and for Reception and Year One will continue on Thursdays. Details of your child’s group (Reception and Year One only) can be found on the blue door on the right hand-side of Bowfell as you enter the classroom.

**Toys**

Please note that toys should not be brought into school unless they are for Show and Tell. This does not include comforters for children in Nursery and we still encourage these to be brought in if it helps your child to feel safe and secure. Children can also bring in other things such as photos, things collected on a walk, a favourite book etc to talk about in our Show and Tell sessions.

**Front door**

If you are for any reason leaving school after the front door has been closed, please can you ensure you do not hold the door open for any others who are attempting to enter the building. Similarly, if you are late or need to re-enter the building, please ring the buzzer and wait for a member of staff. It is vital that we know who is inside for many different reasons, but most importantly by following these rules, you are helping us to keep all children safe.

If you do have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to come and see us. Many thanks for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Haslam and the Bowfell Team