

**Welcome Back**

I hope that you've had a wonderful and restful Christmas holiday and enjoyed your two-week break. Firstly, may I thank you all for the wonderfully kind gifts and cards that you gave – they were sincerely appreciated and enjoyed throughout the holidays. I ordered myself a brand-new Arsenal training shirt to go running in (my others were getting a little tatty).

Over Christmas, I've been busy spending time with my family and doing lots of fun things. As tradition dictates, we also went to the panto at the Theatre Royal to see Cinderella. If you haven't had a chance to see it yet, I highly recommend it.

I've had time to myself (occasionally) and I've been able to watch Arsenal (the good and the bad) and progress through my book, which has been a real treat. As we return in 2026, we've got lots of great things planned – from Skellig to The Lost Words, we've got lots to come...

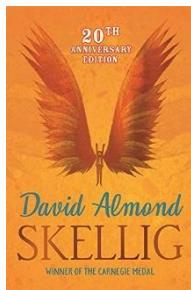


**What are we learning?**

*Our first topic*

In year 5 we're going to be reading a book called Skellig, written by a man called David Almond. It's a fantastic book – not quite as deadly and murderous as Beowulf but it's a brilliant story all the same.

I know we'll love it!



**Highlights from last half term**

*Wild West*

Last half term's work on the Wild West was a real joy to witness. The class focused incredibly upon their roles for the play and leapt into action when called upon.

To complement this, they developed a keen understanding of the history of North America. From the Oregon trail to what a 'Dutch Oven' was, they took so much in their stride.



# Homework

**Home Learning**

**Handed out Monday – Returned Monday**

*Reading*

We will provide your child with books from school to read at home. Please try to read as frequently as possible and sign the relevant part of the reading diary – thank you in advance!

*Homework Book*

Each week your child will bring home their homework book along with some pieces of homework to complete. For example, each week spellings will be sent home along with a piece of Maths and English. The tasks will link to learning we have done in school that week (or have recently covered).

**Spring 1 Learning**

To find out more about what we are learning this half term, please see the reverse of this letter.



If you do have any questions or concerns that I can help with, please catch me on the playground and I'll do my best to answer them then and there.

