



Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! It has been lovely to welcome families back to school this week and hear all the news about their Christmas break.

Earlier this week, I wrote to parents with an update about our roof and the continuing disruption caused following storm damage. We are continuing to monitor the situation, with support from our Education Department and Jersey Property Holdings. I will keep you updated to any further developments. With calmer but cooler weather predicted in the coming week, it is expected that builders can go onto the roof to continue with repairs.

### **Winter Reading Challenge**

We are launching a Samarès Winter Reading Challenge. The challenge is to read 6 books over 6 weeks and it starts on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January! Children will be given a sheet to record their books and either a parent or teacher should sign when they have read the book. The last week of the challenge is February half term with the record sheets being returned on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February. Children who complete the challenge will receive a special medal. Reading is a high priority at Samarès School. Part of our curriculum aims are that *'reading unlocks concepts, knowledge & skills in the curriculum and can inspire, challenge, expand vocabulary, develop empathy and build connections. All children are readers – equipped with the knowledge and skills to be fluent in reading and develop a love of books.'* Our full aims of our curriculum can be found on the curriculum section of the website:

<https://www.samares.sch.je/page/?title=Curriculum+overview&pid=21>

We are continuing to work with Jersey Library and Every Child Our Future (ECOF) to offer a pop-up library every Monday after school at our Pathways building (3pm – 3.45pm). You can borrow books for the Winter Reading Challenge from here too!



### **Message from Health Department**

Our Family Food and Fitness Programme is a free programme available to families with primary school children, who are above a healthy weight. Over twelve weeks, they will learn how to make nutritionally balanced meals and take part in cooking and fun, physical activities. The sessions are delivered by Registered Dietitians, a Psychologist and Jersey Sport physical activity and behaviour change coaches after school at Haute Vallee School. The programme aims to help families develop and sustain healthy lifestyles and assist children to grow into a healthier weight.

Parents can self-refer their children to the programme, or they can be referred by a Healthcare professional. The link is below:

Self-referral: [Family Food and Fitness Programme - About the programme - one.gov.je](#)

We are launching a Portuguese Family Food and Fitness Programme next week (11<sup>th</sup> January 2024) and re-starting the English programme in April (17<sup>th</sup> April 2024).

### Term Dates

You can find the term dates by following the link below.

<https://www.gov.ie/Education/Schools/SchoolLife/pages/termdates.aspx>

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments or queries.

Many thanks,



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Headteacher

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