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Headteacher's news:

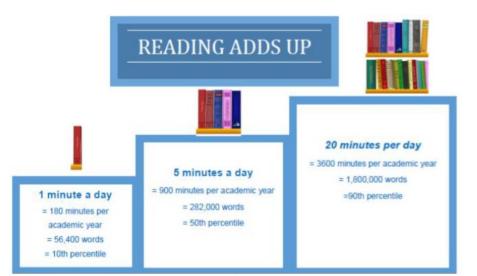
Happy New Year!

I was delighted to welcome the staff and children back to Rufford Park on Monday morning - even if it was a bit of a shock to the system for everyone. I do hope that you all had a lovely break and that the New Year has started well for you.

It has been a relatively quiet and settled week in school with normal lessons. I enjoyed visiting classes on Monday and saw some very focussed reading lessons taking place and want to use this point to remind you again of the importance of reading with your children at home.

I imagine that it has taken a back seat during the holiday -I know it did for me and my children - but it is now time to get back into regular focussed reading sessions at home. These can be supported by discussions about what your child has read as well as what different words mean.

Below I have included some facts about reading. We will be starting our Extreme Reading Challenge next week and are determined to improve on the scores from Autumn 2.



Research shows that a child who reads every day does better at every stage of their education.

This week in assembly we focussed on: **opening doors!**

We discussed the Roman god Janus and how he had the ability to look forward and back in time. Janus was known as the god of doors and doorways and it was thought that because he had two faces, he could see forwards and backwards at the same time. In fact, January - the first month of the year - is named after him. In January, we often take the time to look backwards at the previous year and forwards towards the future.



Year 4 Swimming

Year 4 swimming lessons will start again next week on Friday morning. Please ensure that your child has their swimming kit with them on this day.

Important dates for your diary:

School will be closed to the children tomorrow and on these two remaining Teacher Training Days: Friday 13th March 2020 Monday 20th July 2020

Friends of Rufford Park will next meet at lunchtime (12:15 - 13:15) on Friday 17th January in the Community Room.