

Newsletter 28th October 2016

We have completed our first half term in school, and we have had a wonderful time. It has been lovely getting to know the children and families and already watching how the children have changed to adapt to a new environment and routines.

The Northwich Guardian

On Tuesday morning a photographer from the Northwich Guardian came into school to take class photographs of our reception children. The children were super and looked fantastic. This will be published in a supplement called "Class of 2016" in early November 2016.

Reading

Thank you to everyone who is listening to their child read and reporting that they are thoroughly enjoying the process. The children can change their reading books every day if they should wish or keep them for another evening to share. We will continually monitor progress of reading and benchmark the children regularly to ensure that they are reading the correct level. You will notice that each week I will monitor children's reading and underline in green pen at the end of the week.

Phonics

Phonics this week has included the sounds **ff**, **l**, **ll**, and **ss** and reviewing the tricky words **I** and **to**, **no**, **go**. We have introduced the high frequency words **and**, **is**, **at**, **it**. We have been working with the children on using the existing sounds we know and blending them together, listening for initial sounds in words and attempting to write them. The children are very confident at recognising the sounds and tricky words each day which is wonderful.

Maths

In maths this week we have looked at the concept of measurement. We have used a variety of objects to measure with; compare bears, cubes and leaf prints. We have used the language associated with this concept; shorter, longer, shortest, longest.

Open Morning for children joining EY in Sept 2017

On Thursday it was one of our Open Mornings for prospective parents. The parents had the opportunity to see how your children have settled and how they are working. The Year 6 School Ambassadors were a credit to the school and many parents remarked on this. Many new families commented that they thought the children were very settled and engaged in their learning.

The next open morning will be on **Thursday 10th November 2016 at 9.30am**. If you have friends and/or family that are interested in visiting our School on the 10th then please ask them to contact the School office on Tel: 01606 74164.

Stand Up to Cancer Day - Friday 28th October

As a school we hosted a day of fundraising and recognition for the work of two charities - The Joshua Tree and Macmillan Cancer Trust. It was a non-uniform day with green being the chosen colour to represent both charities, the children donated £1 at the start of the day and at the end of the school day there was a "cake sale". Thank you to everyone who donated money and donated cakes homemade or shop bought to sell today and a big thank you to everyone who supported the cake sale after school. I will report the final total after the half term holidays.

After the half-term holidays

We return to school on Monday 7th November. PE kits will be needed in school on that day. Please check that each piece of kit is fully and clearly named and that you have a spare pair of underwear in PE kits.

As the colder weather is now here to stay please ensure that your child has a coat in school every day (clearly named). Please check on lunch bags and water bottles that they are also clearly named.

Our new phoneme when we return will be **j**. We will focus on the actions associated with this letter sounds (we follow Jolly Phonics) and have a variety of games and activities to support this. We will review all our "tricky words" **I, to, no and go**. A "tricky word" is a word that you cannot phonetically segment and blend, you just have to know it by sight. We will review the high frequency words **and, is, at and it**. We will focus on writing simple cvc words and listening for any sounds we can hear using a phoneme frame to support the children's writing.

In maths we will be looking at writing numbers 1 - 10 throughout the week. This can be a tricky concept and can take a while to master. Children often recognise numbers and count but they rarely write them correctly. We will use a series of number rhymes to re-inforce this and we will send them home for you to share together.

Lunch times

The Midday team will begin to monitor the amount of lunch your children eat each day. If they feel that they have left a significant amount they will send home a blue letter explaining what they have eaten. We will always monitor lunchtimes as a team. Please talk to your child about lunch choices each day and if you feel that they will not eat the lunch choice then you have the option to provide a packed lunch.

Homework

As you will all now have received your Tapestry log-in information and joined us; we would like you to share with us your family experiences of Bonfire Night. You can upload pictures onto Tapestry and then add a caption of where you were, who was there, what you or they liked/did not like, and importantly what your child said. We love to see the child's voice or conversation that has occurred. There are observations on Tapestry from members of the team if you should wish to refer to them. We use the observations you send to add to our observations., which in turn shows progression over the course of the year. If you have not been able to join Tapestry please talk

to Mrs Heywood on our return to school. The children love to share Tapestry work in Show and Tell on Fridays so this will be a lovely opportunity for them.

Thank you for your support this half term. It can be daunting for both children and parents starting school but we feel our strong relationship with parents really supports the transition phase.

Parents as Partners

Attached is a parents as Partners form for you to complete. It allows you the opportunity to tell us as a team what has worked/not worked for you as families. We collate the information and feedback once we have forms into school. We use **all** comments to inform our practice and improve the service we currently provide.

Have a great half term. See you on Monday 7th November.

Mrs J Dodd

Mrs K Heywood

Mrs Z Richardson