

Newsletter 25th November 2016

Celebration Assembly

This was our first Celebration Assembly today and the children were so excited. We try to keep it quite low key for the first one as the children are not used to being in front of a small audience. It was lovely to share the work we have been doing with you and I know you will be as proud as we are at their progress throughout their first term. It was lovely to see so many of you there sharing our achievements.

Guided Reading

You will notice in reading diaries this week we have started "Guided Reading" with our children. This is a reading book shared with a small group of children once a week. This can be fiction or non-fiction. We spend 15 - 20 minutes with the group using this as a teaching session to explain the text, new words, sentence structure, and use of vocabulary, intonation and understanding of the text. Each child reads the book with a member of the team and is then given a task following this to extend their understanding and language awareness. Children work on books that are a level above their home reading books so that we are constantly monitoring and ensuring progression. Each time they read with a member of the team it will be written in green pen and the objective for the text will be visible.

Phonics

In phonics this week we have looked at the new sounds **y** and **z**. This is the start of Phase 3 letters and sounds. We are reviewing the tricky words **I, to, no, go** and **the** each day. We have introduced the high frequency words **and, is, at, it, in**. 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 and we are working on writing cvc words daily.

Maths

In our maths sessions we have looked at money, focussing on coin recognition and counting with money in our large and small group sessions. The homework on Tapestry was lovely to share with the children. Thank you very much.

Miss Eccles has been decorating gingerbread men with the children for snack time this week. The children really enjoyed doing this and especially eating them afterwards. This links into our story of 'The Gingerbread Man' in Talk for Writing.

Junk Modelling materials

Thank you for the boxes and tubes that have been coming into school this week. The children have been very creative and made some adventurous models. Please continue to bring them into school as we will always need the materials replacing.

Christmas Fair - Friday 9th December 6pm

An early reminder about our fast approaching Christmas Fair in school. It is a super start to the festive season for our families. If you would like to help on our stall this year, please express your interest to Mrs Dodd. If your place of work can "match fund" please contact Sue Fenton our new chair of PTA and we can make arrangements and complete the relevant forms.

Parents as Partners

Thank you for the forms that have now all been returned. I will collate all the suggestions and comments ready for next week's newsletter.

Illness/Absence from School Policy

If your child is sick or has an upset stomach then school policy, in line with Cheshire West and Chester guidelines, states that the child must be absent from school for 48 hours from the last time of vomiting. As a school we adhere to this quite strictly to ensure that our children are well enough for school upon return and that this stems the flow of illness for all other children. We do understand this can be tricky when you are working but we are sure that you understand that we need to prevent the spread of the illness. Thank you for your continued support.

Next Week

Our learning next week

Our new phoneme next week will be **q, qu, zz, ch**. 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** and **the**. A "tricky word" is a word that you cannot phonetically segment and blend, you just have to know it by sight. We will start to write our tricky words **the, to** and **I, no, go**. We will review the high frequency words **and, is, at** and **it**. We will introduce the new tricky words **we, me, be**. In maths we will be focussing on subtraction. We will begin looking at one less and how the number gets smaller. The activities are very practical and engaging to focus our learning. We will continue to use RM maths each day and the children are already fully engaged with this. A member of the team will continue to support them each day.

As a link to our Talk for Writing sessions we will be learning about nocturnal animals. On Friday we ask that you send the children in with their PJs and slippers, in a named carrier bag, to wear at the afternoon Show and Tell session. We will act like cosy hibernating animals for this session. We will send the children home in their PJs unless otherwise asked and send the school uniform home in their named carrier bag.

Homework

As we will be fact finding about nocturnal animals in class, we would like you to choose one nocturnal animal and draw a picture of it on A4 piece of paper and send it in for show and tell on Friday. Please let the children have a go themselves and we can put this piece of work on their celebration wall in the classroom.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs J Dodd

Mrs K Heywood

Mrs Z Richardson

Dates for Autumn 2

Friday 9th December 6.00pm

PTA Christmas Fair

Tuesday 13th December 9.00am - 10.15am EY Christmas Celebration and Stay and Play.

Wednesday 14th December

Whole school Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 20th December

KS1 and EY Christmas Party

Thursday 22nd December End of Term until Monday 9th January

Friday 23rd December - INSET