

Newsletter 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016

**Christmas Celebrations!**

As it is now December, you will have noticed that we have changed our displays and have our Christmas tree up in the Early Years entrance hall. As part of our morning routine we have introduced opening advent calendars. Each child will get a chance to open one of the doors before Christmas arrives! We have begun to prepare for our Celebration Assembly learning songs and Christmas rhymes.

**Phonics**

In phonics this week we have looked at the new sounds **zz, q, qu**. We are reviewing the tricky words **I, to, no, go, she, we, me, be** 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 writing cvc words daily.

**Maths**

In our maths sessions we have looked at subtraction and how this means that we are taking something away and making it smaller. We used the Numicon pieces to support our learning and we made the sessions very hands on and practical.

**Afternoon Sessions**

Our afternoon learning has been focussed around nocturnal animals and we were all amazed that on Saturday afternoon a fox came into my garden and I was able to show the children the photographic evidence and this has linked with our "Talk for Writing" sessions too. The homework this week has been wonderful and the children enjoyed sharing their facts and pictures. Thank you for letting them "have a go" at the homework task themselves this week; they are really confident. We had a super time in our PJ's on Friday working as nocturnal animals. The children looked wonderful and cosy and really enjoyed the experience.

**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 9<sup>th</sup> December 6.00pm**

A reminder about our fast approaching Christmas Fair in school. 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 PTA chair and we can make arrangements and complete the relevant forms.

## **Next Week**

### **Our learning next week**

Our new phoneme next week will be **sh**, **th** and **ng**. We will focus on the actions associated with these 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, go, the, me, we, be**. A "tricky word" is a word that you cannot phonetically segment and blend, you just have to know it by sight. We will begin to look at 2 syllable words and how to segment and blend them. Words such as cobweb and postbox.

In maths we will be focussing on shapes. We will start by reviewing 2D shapes and their properties and link this to 3D shapes and their properties. 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.

In our afternoon sessions we will look at the weather and changes we can see now it is winter time.

### **Homework**

In your bag you will have received a phonics sheet informing you of a recent assessment we did with the children on Phase 2 letters and sounds. We would like you to go through this with your child and familiarise them with the sounds that they found tricky. This does not need to be recorded, just practiced regularly.

Have a lovely weekend.

**Mrs J Dodd**

**Mrs K Heywood**

**Mrs Z Richardson**

### **Dates for Autumn 2**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 6.00pm**

**PTA Christmas Fair**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 9.00am - 10.15am EY Christmas Celebration and Stay and Play.**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

**Whole school Christmas Lunch**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

**KS1 and EY Christmas Party**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

**End of Term until Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

**INSET**