

Newsletter 17th February 2017

Our Learning this Week

We have now completed Phase 3 in letters and sounds. As we move towards Phase 4, there are no more sounds to learn, just high frequency words and tricky words. We have assessed the children in their phonics sessions, reading and phonics follow on tasks to ensure they have a complete understanding of how to apply their phonics knowledge. Following the assessments, we have decided to group the children in phonics after the half term holidays. We will have two groups for phonics, led by Mrs Heywood/Mrs Richardson and Mrs Dodd. The children will be grouped by their ability and the application of their phonic knowledge. We have grouped our children before and we find that it helps us to offer more support to children who have found phonics and phonics application tricky. In addition, it develops their confidence with reading and writing. It will also enable us to work with the children who are now secure in their phonics knowledge and further develop their skills. We will work at the children's pace and as a team we will regularly look at the groupings and assess how the children are progressing. If you have any queries or questions with regards to the groups, please do not hesitate to talk to your class teacher.

We have listened to the children read individually this week and benchmarked them according to our reading scheme. There will be a sticker in their reading diary indicating their level of reading books. Guided reading will continue after the half term holidays.

In maths we have been estimating objects in a group and then counting them with accuracy. The children have been very practical in their learning and challenges.

Talk for Writing - The Enormous Turnip

We have been looking at instructional texts; how to make soup and using imperative verbs; such as cut, chop, wash, boil and blend. The children decided that we would like to change our soup to pepper soup and we made this for our snack time which was delicious.

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.

New Arrival

We have a new member to our school family. Welcome to Clara's new brother Donnacha James. Clara was so pleased to share her wonderful news and the whole Early Years team are delighted.

PTA News

Bingo Night - Thank you to everyone who donated gifts for the PTA bingo night. It was lovely to see so many of our families taking part. It was a fun night and a perfect end to the half term.

Pamper Evening - Friday 17th March We are on the lookout for beauty therapists and beauty/pamper inspired stall holders who might be interested in having a space on the night. To

find out more, please get in touch via hartfordprimarypta@gmail.com or enquire at the school office.

After the Holidays

In phonics we will all review our existing sounds, tricky words and high frequency words each session. Mrs Heywood/Mrs Richardson's group will look at CVCC (consonant, vowel, consonant, consonant), words which use the letter sounds that were learnt in Phase 2 and Phase 3. For example; mend and tent. They will look at the tricky words **said** and **so**. Mrs Dodd's group will continue to work in Phase 3 we will work on the diagraphs **ar** and **or** and the tricky word **they**. In maths we will look at sequencing the days of the week and months of the year. We will look at ordinal numbers which is ordering a set of items into first, second, third etc.

As the mornings can be busy and staff can be helping children to organise their routine, it is not always possible to talk to the class teacher for any length of time, and as a team we have reflected on this issue. As a result, after the half term, we will introduce a "communication box" which you will be able to use to request a meeting, or give any information to your child's teacher before the day begins. The class teachers will still be available each day as usual to "meet and greet" the children and parents.

Twitter

Early Years are regularly tweeting "snapshots" of our day and exciting times and achievements. Please take a look - we are always super proud of our children and this is an excellent way for you to share this with us.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 27 th February	Return to school - Spring 2
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day
Thursday 9 th March	Recycling Workshop (tbc)
Monday 20 th - Tuesday 22 nd March	Book Fair
Wednesday 22 nd - Thursday 23 rd March	Parents Evenings
Thursday 23 rd March	Stay and Play - 3
Friday 31 st March	End of Term - Return 18 th April
Thursday 20 th April	Dental Survey
Friday 21 st April	Celebration Assembly 2.45, main hall.

Have a great half term.

Mrs J Dodd

Mrs K Heywood

Mrs Z Richardson