

## Early Years Newsletter 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Welcome to our first week back after the half term break. There is a copy of the medium term planning in the children's school bags for you to refer to over the next few weeks. The children have remembered all their daily routines and have settled back in well. A member of the team is available each morning to support your child with the routine of changing their reading books, if you are experiencing any difficulties please let us know. As the colder weather is now here to stay please ensure that your child has a coat in school every day (clearly named). Please also check that lunch bags and water bottles are clearly named.

### **Tapestry**

We have been adding information onto Tapestry and everyone should now have received a notification from us. If this is not the case, then please let us have your email address as a contact point and we can re-add you to the system.

### **EY Stay and Play 12<sup>th</sup> December 9 - 10 am**

We will be holding a special Christmas assembly before our regular Stay and Play session. The children will be sharing songs and rhymes that they have learnt and the celebration will have a lovely Christmas focus. We will then return to the classroom for a much shorter Stay and Play session. We will have a Christmas snack for all our visitors and the children.

### **Reading**

We have listened to each child read individually this week to monitor their progress. We are delighted how the children are using their phonics knowledge to de-code unfamiliar words. Please remember as we are still acquiring new phonemes (sounds) some of the books will seem repetitive and rather easy but this is to ensure that the reading at home is enjoyable and a nice experience and we will be teaching the children new strategies. To assess the children, we use a "benchmarking system" which allows the children to read a chosen book and then the teacher can assess whether the children are confident, fluent and using phonic knowledge to de-code unfamiliar words. This is done every 4/5 weeks or when the children are ready.

### **Phonics**

In phonics this week we have looked at the new sound **j**. This is the start of Phase 3 letters and sounds. We are reviewing the tricky words **I** and **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 each day, which is wonderful.

### **Maths**

In maths we have been writing our numbers 1 - 10. The children have been working very hard on the number formation and we have a series of number rhymes to support this. We will be sending this home this week for you to re-enforce at home.

### **Bonfire Night and Diwali**

In our afternoon sessions we have been talking about celebrations and how we spend time together as a family. In show and tell the children shared how they celebrated Bonfire Night over the weekend and it was lovely to see all the work on Tapestry, thank you for your support with this. We looked at another celebration, the festival of light, Diwali and how this is celebrated. This occasion is very important to a number of our families in school and it is a super way to look at how this is celebrated around the local area.

### **Next Week**

Our new phoneme next week will be **v**, **w** and **x**. 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 using our number skills and counting and writing calculations. The activities are very practical and engaging to focus our learning. In our afternoon sessions we will be looking at Remembrance Day and how people acknowledge this day in history. Some of the children have already been sharing that they have siblings who are involved in activities over the weekend.

We will be using a computer program called "Colour Magic" to create an Autumn picture. This will be the first time the children will have used the computers in school and we will show them the different tools the program has to offer. The work will be displayed in the classroom.

### **Homework**

To support our learning this week we would like to write numbers at home. 1 - 5 initially and then progress 6 - 10. Some children have found the formation tricky and this is just a time for you to spend together re-visiting each number individually.

### **Parents as Partners**

Please return the Parents as Partners form next week. 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.

### **Dates for Autumn 2**

Friday 17 November - EY Celebration Assembly 2.45pm in the main hall.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 5.30pm PTA Christmas Fair

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 9am - 10.15am EY Christmas Celebration Assembly

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December Whole School Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December KS1 and EY Christmas Party

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December End of Term

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - INSET Day

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 - School reopens for Spring 1

Mrs J Dodd

Mrs S Morton

Mrs Z Richardson