

Early Years Newsletter 17th November 2017

Early Years Celebration Assembly

Thank you to all our families that were able to attend our first assembly of the school year. The children were very 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.

Remembrance Day

We have spent some time this week explaining to the children the significance of buying and wearing the poppy. For many children this will have very little meaning or understanding at this young age, but Charlotte was very proud to share information about her Dad who is currently serving in the Army. The children were fascinated by this. We watched a short animation which was very moving and told a story very simply for the children to watch.

Tapestry

Thank you for the absolutely wonderful pictures that have been appearing on Tapestry. The children really enjoy sharing this with their peers. I think that everyone has now been able to register on to the system and we look forward to seeing your family adventures. We add regularly from observations we make within the classroom these can be in a video or a photograph. If you add any family adventures or homework, we love to share exactly what the children said at the time, the language they use when reading or maths work. This helps to determine their understanding.

Reading

Please ensure that you are able to listen to your child read at least 3 times a week, reading diaries are monitored regularly to check that this is happening and that the children are not choosing the same books.

Phonics

In phonics this week we have looked at the new sounds **v**, **w** and **x**. 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 each day which is wonderful. We are working on writing cvc words daily, written and verbal segmenting and blending, the children are showing great confidence.

Maths

In maths we have continued to write our numbers each session and the children are brilliant, thank you so much for your support over the weekend. We have been combining two numbers and adding them together to start the process of addition. The sessions have been very practical and hands on and the learning has been very active.

Anti-Bullying Week

This week has been National Anti-Bullying Week and this has been a focus of work throughout school and for our assemblies. The children in Early Years are always encouraged to be kind and show respect for one and other. One of our school rules is "Always make school a happy and safe place to be". We wrote our own "charter" for what we think kindness should look like and the children stressed that "kind hands" are very important to them. As a team we are very proud of how the children have developed in such a short time and to be able to express this is wonderful.

Junk Modelling materials

Our children have been creating some wonderful models each day using cardboard boxes and tubes. We would be grateful if you could start to save and send in boxes of various sizes and shapes for us to use. We will need these items all year round.

Christmas Fair - Friday 8th December 5.30pm

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 the PTA and we can make arrangements and complete the relevant forms.

PTA Christmas Cards

The Christmas cards will be sent home next week, the PTA have stressed that the order form must be completed and returned to school by Monday 27th November.

Parents as Partners

Please return the Parents a 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.

Names on everything

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 items in PE kits, lunch bags and water bottles and all school uniform to see that they are clearly named.

Our learning next week

Our new phonemes next week will be **y, z**. 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 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 start to write our tricky words **the, to and I**. We will review the high frequency words **and, is, at and it**. We will introduce the new tricky words **she and he**. In maths we will be focussing on money and the language associated with this. We will look at all coins available and count differing amounts using initially 1p, 2p and 5p for accuracy. The activities are very practical and engaging; which will focus our learning. In our afternoon sessions we will begin using our maths program RM Maths. This is a daily five-minute maths session on the computer. It re-enforces our learning and will also challenge the children. We are able to monitor their progress both with maths and ICT skills. It is brilliant fun and the children really benefit from daily questions and challenges.

Homework

To support our learning about money this week, when you are out and about as families or at home, let your children handle coins and pay for items when you are shopping. Please use the language associated with money; how much does it cost? What coins are we going to need? Do we need any change? In our ever changing way of life we rarely handle cash now and so talking to your child about cash and card payments will help their understanding. Please put any homework on Tapestry for the children to share in show and tell on the Friday afternoon session. Please put the conversation that occurred with the photographs or short video clips.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs J Dodd

Mrs S Morton

Mrs Z Richardson

Dates for Autumn 2

- Friday 8th December 5.30pm PTA Christmas Fair**
- Tuesday 12th December 9am - 10.15am EY Christmas Celebration Assembly**
- Wednesday 13th December Whole School Christmas Lunch**
- Wednesday 20th December KS1 and EY Christmas Party**
- Thursday 21st December End of Term**
- Friday 22nd December - INSET DAY**
- Monday 8th January 2018 - School reopens**