

## Early Years Newsletter 1st December 2017

### Christmas Celebrations!

As it is now December we will begin our journey through to the end of term. You will have noticed that we have changed our displays and have our Christmas tree up in the 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** and **be** each day. 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 and the children are also showing great confidence in this.

### 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. We have completed our first maths assessment this week; on 2D shapes. The completed sheet will be in book bags.

### Reading

We are currently listening to the children read individually and we are delighted with their progress. We can see that the children are applying their phonic knowledge and segmenting and blending with confidence. As a school we ask that you support your children by reading at least 3 times a week and write in their reading diaries on how they enjoyed the book and how they read. This information will support our regular assessment of reading.

### Afternoon Sessions

Our afternoon learning has been focussed on 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 rather confident. We had a super time in our PJ's on Wednesday 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 8<sup>th</sup> December 5.30 - 7.30pm**

A reminder about the Christmas Fair in school next week. It is a super start to the festive season for our families. As a team we will be on various stalls during the evening and we look forward to seeing you all.

### **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** and **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. Following our recent shape assessment, we will be re-visiting 2D shapes. This will ensure that the children are secure on shape properties and shape names. 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 weather and changes now it is winter time.

#### **Homework**

You will have received a phonics and maths sheet informing you of recent assessments we have completed with the children. We would like you to go through these with your children to consolidate their knowledge. This does not need to be recorded just practiced regularly.

Have a lovely weekend.

**Mrs J Dodd**

**Mrs S Morton**

**Mrs Z Richardson**

#### **Dates for Autumn 2**

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

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 9.15am - 10.15am EY Christmas Celebration and Stay and Play.**

**Wednesday 13<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 until Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

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