

Early Years Newsletter 12th January 2018

Welcome back to school. It was so lovely to see everyone again on Monday after the holidays. A Happy New Year to you all.

This term is known as spring 1 and can often feel rather long due to the dark mornings and unpredictable weather. The overall theme this half term is traditional tales and family favourites. This will give the children a base to develop their writing skills and apply their phonic and literacy knowledge. We will always let the children guide our planning and have an input into their learning, so if things change then you will understand the reason why.

Thank you to all that remembered to bring their PE kits in after a few sleeps, please ensure that all PE kits are in school on Monday, they can stay in school for the entire half term. Please ensure a spare pair of underwear and socks are included in the kit.

Exciting News!

Mrs Morton has shared the wonderful news with all the children and staff that she is expecting a baby in June. To ensure that the children have continuity in class, Mrs Richardson and Mrs Birtwistle will take EYMR to the end of the Summer Term. The children already know Mrs Birtwistle and Mrs Richardson very well and we are sure the transition will be seamless.

All the children have returned to school telling us of the lovely books they have received over Christmas and how they love to share them at home. If they wish to bring them into school; please ensure they have their names written in them and we will share them with the children. In our phonics work this week, we reviewed our existing Phase 3 sounds and all our tricky words. We have introduced the new tricky words **you, come and here**. In Maths, we looked at the concept of time. We sequenced our school day using our visual timetable. We talked about the different ways we get ready to come to school in the mornings and how we travel each day. We looked at the clock itself and the features such as the face, the hands and the numbers. We managed to have a few timed challenges too; we counted how many jumps we could do in a minute, how many stones in the jar and we ended the week by seeing how many "Cheerio's" we could put on a strand of dry spaghetti ☺ Yes it was very entertaining and brought out a lovely competitive streak in some children!! In our afternoon session, we looked at seasonal changes and how this affects us and any animals that we know visit our gardens. Lani told us that birds can struggle to find food and suggested we made some bird feeders, we will make these next week. Could everyone bring a small toilet roll in for this next week? They can be hung in the garden and see which birds will now visit and share this new treat.

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.

Head Lice

There have been some recent cases in school. Please regularly check your child's hair for any signs of head lice. It is extremely common and easy to treat. If you are in any doubt then please seek advice from your local pharmacy.

Next Week

Our new phoneme next week will be **oo (short and long sound)**, look, cook, book and moon, shoot and boot and **ar**. 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, the, me, we, be, was, my, was and you** and introduce the new tricky word **her**. A "tricky word" is a word that you cannot phonetically segment. We will introduce the high frequency words **then, them, see, for**. We will continue to use RM maths each day and the children are already fully engaged with this. In maths we will work with Numicon and familiarise ourselves with the pieces. We will work with them to re-visit addition of 2 single digit numbers or more complex addition as children become more confident. We will look at different ways to make the numbers 10, 8, 7 and 6. We will be hands on and very practical to enhance the children's learning. In our afternoon sessions, we will be using a computer program called "Colour Magic" it is a painting program that will encourage the children to create images for themselves. The program has a number of different paint tools to use and throughout the week we will introduce them and allow the children the afternoons to "have a go" for themselves.

Homework

To support our learning in maths this week we would like you to take the opportunity to look at time at home. We have looked at the clock itself and its features with the children and discussed our school day. Talk to your children about the times they go to bed and wake up each morning, swimming, any clubs they may do over the weekend. Look around the house and find clocks; they may be a traditional clock or even a digital clock on an appliance. Encourage the children to look at the numbers on the clock and use the language associated with time such as o'clock, next, after that, afterwards. This can be shared on Tapestry and we will share together in Show and Tell on the following Friday afternoon.

Please check in school bags for our medium term planning document.

Mrs J Dodd

Mrs S Morton

Mrs Z Richardson