

Early Years Newsletter 26th October 2018

We have completed our first half term in school, and we have had a wonderful time. It has been lovely getting to know the children and their families, and watching how the children have changed to adapt to a new environment and routines.

Reading

Thank you to everyone who is listening to their child read and reporting that they are thoroughly enjoying the process. The children can change their reading books every day if they wish or keep them for another evening to share. We will continually monitor the progress of reading and benchmark the children regularly to ensure that they are reading the correct level. You will notice that each week I will monitor children's reading and underline in green pen at the end of the week. Reading at home is meant to be easy and enjoyable and a time when your child can gain in confidence ready for the next level of reading books. Please write your comment once you have read with your child, then we can gauge how this process is working at home for the family.

Phonics

Phonics this week has included the sounds **ff**, **l**, **ll**, and **ss** and reviewing the tricky words **I** and **to**, **no**, **go**. We have introduced the high frequency words **and**, **is**, **at**, **it**. 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 this week we have looked at the concept of measurement. We have used a variety of objects to measure with; compare bears, cubes and leaf prints. We have used the language associated with this concept; shorter, longer, shortest, longest.

Missing Uniform

We are currently missing some labelled items of uniform, please can you check at home during the holidays and return any items after half term.

After the Half-Term Holidays

We return to school on Monday 5th November. PE kits will be needed in school on that day. Please check that each piece of kit is fully and clearly named and that you have a spare pair of underwear in PE kits.

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 on lunch bags and water bottles to ensure that they are clearly named.

Our Learning

Our new phoneme will be **j**. 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 looking at writing numbers 1 - 10 throughout the week. This can be a tricky concept and can take a while to master. Children often recognise numbers and count but they rarely write them correctly. We will use a series of number rhymes to re-enforce this and we will send them home for you to share together.

Lunchtimes

The Midday team will begin to monitor the amount of lunch your child eats each day. If they feel that they have left a significant amount they will send home a blue letter explaining what they have eaten. We will always monitor lunchtimes as a team. Please talk to your child about lunch choices each day and if you feel that they will not eat the lunch choice then you have the option to provide a packed lunch.

Conkers, Acorns and Pinecones

A plea from the team, we are very low on our supplies for our outdoor environment. If you are out and about as a family over the holidays we would be extremely grateful if you could collect them for us and we can use them to enhance our "transient art". There will be a brown bag in reading bags this week for you to use to collect things.

Homework

As you will all now have received your Tapestry log-in information and joined us; we would like you to share with us your family experiences of Bonfire Night. You can upload pictures onto Tapestry and then add a caption of where you were, who was there, what you or they liked/did not like, and importantly what your child said. We love to see the child's voice or conversation that has occurred. There are observations on Tapestry from members of the team if you should wish to refer to them. We use the observations you send to add to our observations, which in turn shows progression over the course of the year. If you have not been able to join Tapestry; please talk to Mrs Dodd on our return to school. The children love to share Tapestry work in Show and Tell on Fridays so this will be a lovely opportunity for them.

Finally, in next week's Northwich Guardian you will find our Early Years class photos, please look out for them.

Have a great half term. See you on Monday 5th November.

Mrs J Dodd

Mrs Z Richardson

Mrs D Gatiss