



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a very busy and exciting half term, with the festive season just around the corner! We will be introducing our new topic of 'Light and Dark', within this we will be discussing Bonfire Night, Diwali, light sources, space, shadows, nocturnal animals and ultimately Christmas. We will also be presenting our whole Reception performance of The Sleepy Shepherd.

The children continue to come into school really nicely, but for some it can still be very unsettling to see parents close to the windows at the end of the day or once they have entered the classroom. So, we would ask you to leave promptly once your child is inside to avoid this and to ensure the safety of ALL children. Please reinforce with your children how important it is to remain in the classroom once they have left you. We do understand how tempting it is to delay leaving or look through the window but be reassured that if your child has found separation from you difficult, we will call if they do not settle quickly, once you have gone. Thank you for your support in helping to make these sometimes challenging times as easy, safe and successful for all children as possible.

As you already know we have started work on linking sounds to letters (phonics). The children will continue to bring home their sound books detailing the action associated with the sounds we have taught and the corresponding letter formation. These will be collected in at the start of the week for marking and for the new sheet to be added and returned on Thursday. Please reinforce at home the letter action, sound AND correct letter formation pattern as they practise letter formation with you. We have issued individual reading books for those children who are blending confidently and these are accompanied by the yellow reading record book, for you to comment in, every time you read. They have common exception word tags attached at the back which are words with irregular spellings and the children need to recognise them on sight as opposed to sounding them out. Please read the reading scheme books with your child and write comments in the Reading Record Book. You can read these books several times over the week, to develop fluency with blending AND the ability to discuss the content read and to develop comprehension skills. If there are occasions when your child does not have a structured reading book in his/her book bag do not worry there is still plenty you can do to support reading at home. You can encourage your child to write three letter words based on objects at home. There are also games on various websites, including the "Alphablocks" one which you might like to try. Read a different book (all books are reading books) encouraging your child to point out any words or sounds that s/he can identify, but be ready to take over the reading when the text is too difficult.

In Mathematics we will be continuing to recognise and order numbers to 10, learning about more and fewer, counting out amounts accurately and learning the number facts for individual numbers. We will also soon be launching our new maths activity bags, which were shown on the Curriculum Workshop, they are backpacks containing maths resources for you to enjoy at home with your child. There are songs, games and cards for you to play, with the emphasis being on enjoyment and having fun while learning about numbers and mathematical concepts.

Thank you to all parents who have been adding observations to the Interactive Learning Diaries detailing your children's achievements. This term we would be particularly interested to hear the comments about family celebrations and traditions personal to you, particularly as Christmas approaches. Please don't hesitate to tell us about anything else that you feel is of significance too as it is always lovely to see the new learning that the children do at home.

Now that the weather is becoming colder, please ensure that hats, scarves etc. are labelled with your child's name. School fleeces are also tricky to identify - some parents have cleverly attached named tags to the puller on the zip. This is ideal, as the tag can easily be seen and it also makes it easier for the children to do up their own zips! A few children are still finding putting on their coats tricky. It is vital that they can do this independently now. Please continue to help them with this at home. Please only fill water bottles with water not juice or squash and ensure that they and all fruit tubs/pots are named to ease collection at home times.

If you have questions, information to share or are concerned about any aspect of your child's education **please** contact your class teacher by the school email or through the school email address, ensuring that you are contacting the relevant teacher. The office staff check emails daily and if you provide a phone number we will get back to you. The yellow reading record books can also be used for **non-urgent** messages.

Accidents may happen at play times or within the classroom. Children with head bumps will be given appropriate treatment and a yellow wrist band to wear. If we are **at all** concerned over a head bump we will call you directly. If you receive a text or see your child has a wrist band, do not panic these are to make you aware to keep an eye, but it will have been a minor bump. In case there are any issues with texts arriving late, we use the wrist band to ensure parents are notified about minor bumps.

We will of course be getting ready for Christmas soon, with our production of "The Sleepy Shepherd" to prepare for (more details to follow via the school newsletter.)

We had a brilliant start to our P.E. lessons last week! Thank you to those who had their P.E. kits in school ready. If you have not done this, please do so, before our next session on Thursday.

Many thanks for your continued support.

The Reception Team