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Reception Newsletter 2 – November 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well done to all the children on a very successful term 1! We are very impressed at how well they have settled in, worked together, and focused on their phonics. Lots of reading at home is really helping them to make great progress. Keep it up!

This newsletter is a reminder of the topics we will be covering this term, which we mentioned in the September newsletter. Please also see the weekly note in your child's reading record, which explains what we have focused on and how to help at home. You can send in photos of 'wow moments' at home using Evidence Me, which would be great to see: e.g. a first time your child has achieved a task, shown perseverance, or tried something new.

Topics / Literacy

In November we will look into real life superheroes, with a fire safety visitor and a variety of superhero-themed stories, including superhero firefighters, recyclers, astronauts, and even potatoes! We will learn to be resilient with Resilience Tortoise and his superhero cape. We will talk about Bonfire Night, Autumn, Remembrance, Children in Need, and Anti-bullying,

In December we will talk about Christmas traditions and toys in the past, as well as preparing for our performance: the Reception children always sing a song in the nativity, as well as having parts to act out in the nativity scenes. More details will follow!

Challenge Time

The children responded really well to the introduction of 'Independence Bear's Star Challenge', which is a task they need to complete independently during their challenge time (free choice time) during the week. Going forwards, there will be two short challenges per week, to challenge and consolidate their learning, alongside the normal choice of activities to learn through their play, and supported/adult-led challenges.

Phonics

We will continue to work on Set 1 sounds this term, including lower case and capital letters. The children are learning how to write each letter, and use 'Fred Talk' to help them write short words. We will practise reading, building confidence and fluency, and when reading we talk about the books to help them make sense of what they are reading.

Maths

In our daily maths sessions we will continue to focus on deepening our understanding of numbers to 10, such as demonstrating what numbers look like on a 5 frame, and comparing numbers. The children really enjoy linking their learning to the Numberblocks episodes and using practical resources to demonstrate what they have learned. We will also learn 2D shape names, patterns, and the vocabulary for comparing objects by weight and length.

Physical Development

PE will continue to take place on Mondays and Tuesdays – please can the children wear their PE kits on those days. In our indoor sessions, we are building up our gymnastic skills, using a range of jumps and balances to make routines. Outdoors we will continue to play games that support listening skills, alongside agility and coordination. Each morning we



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have the 'daily mile' ten minute run. Our normal classroom activities will continue to include fine motor skills, to help prepare the children for writing: play dough, threading, pencil control and scissor skills.

Wider Areas of Learning

The children will find out about the different materials that everyday objects and toys are made from, and how they can be sorted, e.g. for recycling. In technology, the children will learn to use new games on the iPads to support their learning, as well as using laptops to draw pictures, such as firework art. In PSHE, we will work on managing our feelings and being considerate and kind to others. In Religious Education (RE) we will find out more about Jesus and Moses, and the Nativity. Have a look at our green 'Whole class learning log' book in the classroom to see more details about what we have learnt about each day.

Show and Tell

Show and Tell is great for developing confidence, speaking and listening skills, and we have a new system in place. Independence Bear, Team Work Bee and Resilience Tortoise have a meeting each night and choose two children who have shown great choices, to be the special helpers the next day. Now we are introducing an extra reward: special helpers are invited to bring in an item for Show and Tell the following day. It would be great to see a variety of items that the children can talk about and answer questions on – photos, natural items found on a walk, or something homemade would be excellent to see. Please make sure nothing too precious or fragile comes to school – if in doubt, please email in a photo!

Reminders

Please make sure your child brings the following things to school each day, and that all of their own things are clearly labelled with their name!

- Book bag containing: wonder words pencil case, yellow reading record, phonics book, and any lilac books you have borrowed from the library box in our classroom
- Water bottle
- Coat – no matter how good the weather forecast!

Volunteers

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have already offered to help in school. If you are happy to volunteer please let us know, and see Rosanna in the office to arrange a DBS check - all help is very much appreciated. We would really appreciate more helpers to hear readers, and to help at the following outings please – let us know if you are able to help:

Thursday 12th December - Whole-School Pantomime trip

Monday 16th December – Nativity rehearsal and Christmas lunch

Wednesday 18th December – 2pm Nativity at Marlborough College Chapel.

If you have any questions or queries, you are welcome to talk to us at the start of the school day, or at the end of the day when all the children have been collected. Alternatively Mrs Bennett is always happy to make appointments, or you are welcome to email via the office.

Mrs Bennett, Mrs Wing and Mrs Keen



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