



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after what we hope was a relaxing and enjoyable Half Term. The children have amazed us so far this year by coping so well with the demands of a full day at school as well as quickly getting used to the lunchtime routine. 😊

TOPICS



This half term we have an exciting umbrella topic of 'Let's Celebrate!' This will include looking at changes that occur in Autumn, the Hindu festival of Diwali, World Nursery Rhyme week, Firework Night and Christmas. We will also be focussing stories 'Room on a Broom' and 'The Gruffalo's child' by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. We are very excited to start practising the songs for our Christmas Nativity 'Miracle in Town' in the next few weeks, more details will follow later this month.

READING AT HOME

We are now reading in a group with the children twice a week and will send these books home that day. After you have read with your child, please **write a comment or signature** so that we know the book has been read at home. Please keep books and orange reading records in book-bags **every day**.



MARVELLOUS MAKING

In our 'Creative Area', we like to provide a large variety of resources that the children can choose from to create their models and pictures. We would really appreciate anything you may have at home that might enhance our provision. Examples might include the following: large and small cardboard boxes, kitchen roll tubes, lids, buttons, wool and ribbon, unwanted catalogues and children's magazines. We ask kindly that you don't send in any recycling that has been in contact with dairy such as yogurt pots, chocolate boxes or milk cartons, due to dairy allergies in Reception. Many thanks for your help.

FOREST SCHOOL



We have a weekly Forest School session on Wednesday afternoons and will go outside in ALL weathers, excluding high winds. As it is getting much colder, please ensure your child has warm clothing to put on including **named** wellie socks, a hat and gloves. Children will also wear their wellies and waterproof clothing that have kindly been supplied by you, and if needed, their coats.



PARENT HELPERS

Now that the children are settled into Reception, our **Parent Rota** has been placed in the window, please sign up if you are able to pop in for a morning or afternoon (or even for the odd hour), your help will be greatly appreciated!

Please could we just remind you that if you do wish to help out regularly, you will need a **Police Check Form (DBS)**, available from the office. These forms need to be completed and returned to the office along with all relevant documentation as soon as possible. When the checks have been completed, you will be able to sign up and come in to help.

SHOW AND TELL

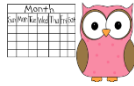
Children are welcome to bring in a **small topic-related** item to show once a week. We will try our best to show items on the day that they bring it in but should we run out of time, please keep it in their book-bag for the following day. We ask that it is small enough to fit in book-bags and if it is breakable or precious, please give to your child's class teacher in a named bag to enable us to keep it safe. Please ensure your child does not bring in toys from home as they are likely to be confused with ours



Yours sincerely

Miss Cheer and Miss MacKinnon 😊

Dates for your diary!



**Monday 7th and Wednesday 9th
November 2016**

Parents Consultations to discuss your child's development (please sign up for a convenient day and time on the sign up by the Main Office).

Friday 11th November 2.30 – 3pm

Reception to perform Nursery rhymes to parents in the Infant Hall.

Welcome Wednesdays

- **Wednesday 2nd November**
- **Wednesday 7th December**
(3.10pm – 3.30pm)

Parents and Carers welcome in the classroom between 3.10pm and 3.30pm every first Wednesday of the month.

Monday 28th November

Decoration Day – we will start the festive celebrations by spending the day making Christmas decorations. Parents and carers are welcome to come in and help us with activities in the morning (a sign-up sheet will be put on the window nearer the time). To add to the Christmassy feel, children are asked to wear a Christmas jumper.

**Tuesday 13th December 2pm and
Wednesday 14th December 10am**

Our Reception Nativity this year is *Miracle in Town!* More details will follow in the next few weeks.

Monday 19th December

Learning Journey Sharing – you will have you an opportunity to have a look at your child's learning journey and any other work they have done so far in Reception. More details will follow nearer the time.

Wednesday 21st December

Term ends at 1pm.

How to help your child at home:

- Reading a variety of books with your child.
- Retelling familiar stories in their own words or using the pictures in a book. Can they change the ending?
- Practising oral blending in games such as 'I Spy' (I spy a.. c-a-t/z-i-p).
- Hiding phonemes/words/alphabet/numbers around the house.
- Counting to 20 forwards and backwards and finding one more or one less to 10.
- Singing number rhymes such as Five Currant Buns, Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer, Ten Green Bottles.
- Tracing their name/letters/numbers in a variety of materials e.g. bubbles, sugar, mud, shaving foam, cornflour and water.
- Cutting and sticking pictures from magazines and newspapers to make their own picture.

Useful Websites

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freelindex.htm>

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com>

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies

Useful Apps

Hairy letters

abc PocketPhonics

Phonics Lilies

Forest Phonics

Number Line

Ladybird Maths

Hungry Fish

Math, Age 3-5 and Age 4-6

Tap A Tune

Bee-Bot

Monster Hunt (Memory game)

*There are also several free read-along books such as 'Toy Story Read Along' or 'Collins Big Cat'.

Understanding the World

People and Communities

Looking at how different celebrations are prepared for and celebrated, comparing similarities and differences.

The World

Looking at the changes that occur in Autumn and Winter.

Technology

How to use a mouse effectively.
Exploring how to change the pen on the Smart Notebook program to create patterns and pictures.

Communication, Language and Literacy

Reading

Read words and simple sentences, matching them to the correct pictures.

Writing

Labelling the characters of the Gingerbread man.
Sequencing stories, writing story maps as a class and acting out stories.

Speaking and Listening

Show and tell.
Practising for and performing our Christmas Nativity.

Physical Development

Moving and Handling

Developing our fine motor skills (to help our pencil grip) – threading beads to create a pattern, pencil control, name tracing, mark making in a variety of materials., cutting pictures, manipulating playdough.

Health and self-care

Practising how to transport things safely i.e. scissors in the classroom and big logs in our Forest School.



Let's Celebrate! Autumn 2, 2016

Expressive Arts and Design

Exploring and using media and materials:

Using tools to shape, assemble and join materials when making things such as pipe cleaner fireworks and tissue paper bonfires.
Manipulating clay to make a Diwali Diva pot and using tools to decorate it.
Singing Nursery rhymes for World Nursery Rhyme week.

Being Imaginative:

Using material to make traditional Indian dress. Acting out our focus stories.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Self-confidence and self-awareness

Practising standing in front of an audience for our Christmas Nativity.

Making relationships

Focussing on how to share things with our peers and wait our turn.

Mathematics

Number

Recognising and ordering numbers to 10, then 20.
Finding one more and one less of numbers to 10.
Finds the total number of items in two groups by counting all of them.

Shape, Space and Measure

Orders and sequences familiar events i.e. brushing our teeth or getting ready for School.