

News from the Early Years Team



November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new term. We hope you had an enjoyable mid-term break. I wanted to take this opportunity to say how proud I am of all the children for a successful first term at school. Everyone has settled in incredibly well and they did a fantastic job of learning and performing the harvest songs for our first assembly. Well done, Foundation! We are now looking forward to the run up to Christmas and all the excitement that entails.

Let's Celebrate!

We will begin the term learning about Diwali and Bonfire Night followed by Remembrance Sunday. We will then base our activities around birthdays and other celebrations and, before we know it, it will be Christmas time!

• Diwali and Bonfire Night

The children will be learning about the Hindu Festival of Lights and will take part in creative activities such as drawing chalk rangoli patterns outside and creating Diya lamps from clay. They will also have the opportunity to use different media to create firework art. We will discuss how to keep safe during Bonfire Night and think about how pets feel about fireworks and how we can take care of them.

• Celebrations

The children have chosen to learn about celebrations such as birthdays.

This gives us many learning opportunities such as role-playing birthday parties, writing invitations, creating birthday cards, wrapping presents and making decorations.



• Christmas

We will be thinking about giving and sharing and we are looking forward to finding out about each child's Christmas traditions. The children will be busy making Christmas crafts such as cards, decorations and calendars, alongside rehearsing for our Foundation Stage and KS1 Christmas production.

Performances will take place on **Tuesday 11 December at 9.15am** and **Wednesday 12 December at 2pm.**



Reading and Writing

We look forward to seeing you at our next workshop, **Reading Workshop Part 2:**

Tuesday 6 November at 9:00am or 6:30pm.

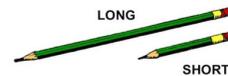
We will be revising Speed Sounds Set 1, aiming for all children to be able to read and write each sound. If your child is not yet independently blending sounds together to read three letter words they will continue to work on *Word Time* using our magnetic letters and boards. If your child is independently blending they will continue to practise reading green words using 'Fred talk' and move on to reading 'Ditties'. They will also be learning to spell using their 'Fred Fingers'. Before learning Speed Sounds Set 2, the children will learn to blend four letter words to read, for example, trap, jump, best.

Once your child is blending sounds to read we will send home the first set of red words (remember it is harder to Fred a red!) and a book with words from our reading scheme.



Number, Shape, Space and Measures

This term the children will have the opportunity to use everyday language to talk about size, weight and capacity. They will estimate, measure, weigh, compare and order objects in a range of fun ways linked to our topic.



The children will consolidate their learning from the previous term by working with numbers up to ten and be introduced to the concept of zero. They will place numbers in order and say one more or less than a number. They will also learn about estimating and check their 'sensible guess' by counting accurately. During this unit the children will learn ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) and the key vocabulary associated with these.



Role-play Area

This term the children will continue to access the home corner and have chosen to have a role-play Toy Shop (which will then turn into a Christmas Workshop).

If you have anything at home (or work) that you could donate for these areas, or know of someone else who can, it would be greatly appreciated, such as...

Home Corner	Toy Shop	Christmas Workshop
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magazines Washing up liquid bottles Pots and pans Jugs Baskets Utensils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unwanted boys bags Unwanted purses or wallets Small canvas shopping bags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wrapping paper Used/unwanted cards Gift bags Tinsel Toy brochures/catalogues

PE

The children have been excited about taking part in PE sessions in the hall. This term our focus will be gymnastics so outdoor PE kits will not be needed. Children will **not** require footwear for indoor PE as it is done in bare feet.



Show and Tell

There is no set day for 'show and tell'. The children may bring something in when their interest is sparked or when they would like to share something special that has happened to them.

Ideas for show and tell might be a photograph, book, artefact, object, collage, picture, model, painting, home-made book, or piece of writing. The possibilities are endless.

Each child will be encouraged to speak in front of the rest of the class. It often helps to talk with your child about their chosen item beforehand. Here are a few things you might like to discuss:

- What is it and why have you chosen it?
- How is it linked to our theme, 'Diwali' / 'Bonfire Night' / 'Remembrance Sunday' / 'Birthdays'?
- Where did you find it? / How did you make it? / How does it work?
- For a story book: What is it about? Why do you like it? What happens at the beginning, middle and end?
- For a non-fiction book - What is it about? Which is your favourite part? How can you use the contents page to find your favourite part?



How Can You Help?

- If you are having a clear out ready for Christmas we would love any donations of unwanted toys that you think could be useful for school. We are in particular need of dolls clothes and accessories. Aqua doodles and magnetic drawing boards would also be useful. Thank you.
- We love it when you send in 'craft bits' or old rolls of wallpaper for the children to use and be creative with. Any left over birthday cards, wrapping paper or party invites would also be useful.



Tapestry

I hope you are enjoying seeing what your child has been experiencing at school. We love to see what your child has been doing at home too. We would encourage you to add your WOW moments to your child's account. If you are using the APP you are able to click on the + sign in the right hand corner to add an observation and if you are on the website you can select 'Add an observation'. You can write a note, add a photo or upload a video. If you need any help with this, please just pop in and ask.

Thank you for all of your support.

We hope that you and your child have a great second term. It should be very exciting with the lead up to Christmas and I am sure many happy memories will be made!

Please do not hesitate to come and see us with any queries or concerns, no matter how small you may think they are.

Regards

The Early Years Team

Miss Bytheway and Mrs Hudson