Reception Newsletter January 2012

Welcome Back!

We all hope you had a good Christmas and wish you a very Happy New Year. Thank you so much for all the kind cards and gifts we received. We look forward to a busy half term and shall be welcoming Miss Talbot, a PGCE (Teacher Training) student, into Mrs Blair's in a few weeks time.

Dressing for the weather

The cold weather is well and truly here! Being outside is an integral part of our curriculum but, as I am sure you can appreciate, the children do tend to get rather muddy and cold if they are not wearing appropriate clothes. Please send your child to school in wellington boots and warm clothes (especially thick socks).

Dinner Money and Lunch Slips

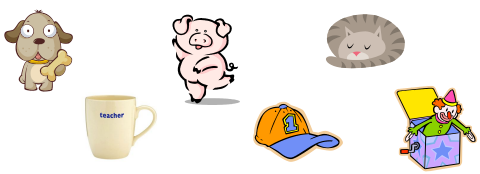
Please make sure you fill in a lunch slip and return it in your child's book bag each week. A large number of children, particularly those who are packed lunch, are not sending them in. Also, if you are sending in dinner money, please make sure it comes in on Monday, is in a named envelope and clearly states which day the money is for. Thank you

Topics

This half term our topics are birds (up until Friday 20th January) and Chinese New Year and other festivals from around the world (Monday 23rd January to Friday 17th February). If you have anything you think would be useful or interesting that relates to these topics, please see your class teacher and find out when would be best to bring them in.

Early Reading and Writing

We have now been through all the 44 sounds (Jolly Phonics). We are so pleased at the number of children who know all the single letter sounds - well done. They now need to focus on learning the double and triple letter sounds (digraphs and trigraphs) and your help at home is invaluable. We are doing lots of fun activities at school to help the children learn the sounds and if you would like to borrow any of our resources to continue the learning journey at home, please see your class teacher. Another idea you could do at home, in the car or just about anywhere (!) is saying a simple 3 letter word to your child (preferably one with a vowel in the middle) and asking them to tell you how to spell it - remember, they will say the letter sound, not the name. Then you can reverse the process - show them the word and ask them to blend the sounds together. These skills are vital tools for writing and reading and you can never practise enough. We shall soon be splitting the children into three phonics groups and they will have a fun, daily 20 minute session with either Mrs Jones, Mrs Blair or Mrs Hudson. More details to follow.



Maths

During this term we shall be sending home some topic related maths activities for you to do with your child at home. The first will be a sheet on which to record and identify the different birds that visit your garden. This will be along the lines of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Big Garden Birdwatch which takes place on the weekend of 28th - 29th January. Please go to their website for more information *www.rspb.org.uk*

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