Reception Newsletter January 2010

Welcome Back!

We all hope you had a good Christmas and wish you a very Happy New Year. This term we welcome Mrs Julie Pulford to Reception and in two weeks time we shall also be welcoming a PGCE student into Mrs Blair's class. She will be with us for about 6 weeks.

Phonics Groups

From next Monday (11th Jan) the children will be split into one of three phonics groups: Blackbirds, Puffins and Chaffinches. The sessions will start promptly at 9am so it is vital that your child arrives at school on time so we can get the register done first. On Friday (8th Jan) you will receive more information on which group your child is in and how you can support them at home.

Dinner Money and Lunch Slips

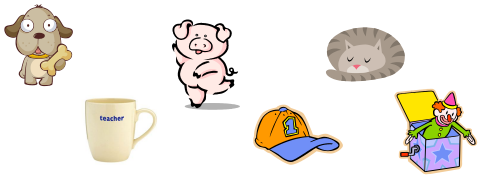
Please make sure you fill in a lunch slip and return it in your child's book bag each week. A large number of children, particularly those who are packed lunch, are not sending them in. Also, if you are sending in dinner money, please make sure it comes in on Monday, is in a named envelope and clearly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

Topics

This half term our topics are Winter, Space and Chinese New Year. If you have anything you think would be useful or interesting that relate to these topics, please see your class teacher and find out when would be best to bring them in.

Early Reading and Writing

As mentioned in the December newsletter, 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! (Well, assuming that you are both still having fun that is!)



Maths Games

During this term we shall have a number of fun number games available for you to borrow and play at home with your child and the rest of the family. Starting next Friday (15th), you can come into school at 3.30pm and choose a game to take home (there will be a box of games outside each classroom). We shall operate a simple, self-service system and just ask that you return the game the following Friday afternoon.

Lost Property

We have a mountain of lost property so please come in and have a look through - it's kept in a treasure chest down the Reception corridor (between REH and RVJ). After school on Friday (15th Jan) I shall take all unnamed items to one of the charity shops on Chanterlands Avenue.

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