



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and New Year and that you have made some great memories with your children. Thank you so much for your support of your children in their home learning. The Phonics results were really very good and I think we can safely say that every child is well on their way to considering themselves a reader. It is wonderful to see them choosing to read for pleasure, but I think the highlight for me was on the coach returning from the Panto when I turned around and saw one of our children had picked up a newspaper and was reading it! The Nativity went so well and your children should be congratulated on their conduct and well as their performance!

This half term our learning is looking exciting and we are keen for you to be involved in every way! Friday Family Story Time will continue and I hope to see you there if your other commitments allow for this. We had a wonderful final session where the Christmas sing a long demonstrated the real 'family' feeling of the class. I would link to thank one particular parent who led us in a rousing rendition of 'Christmas Pudding. We must end each half term with a song I feel so if anyone has ideas for the February 10<sup>th</sup> session please share them with us.

In Communication and Language (CL) we are thinking about specific vocabulary linked with our theme which is "I wonder where we can find animals?" as well as continuing to use talk for clarifying our thinking and to begin to feed this into writing. We will still be playing games that help us to make sense of unfamiliar objects and experiences. We will be sharing lots of stories

In Personal, Social and Emotional development (PSED) we are focusing on friendships and what being a good friend looks like, as well as helping those around us.

In Physical development (PD) we will continue to give our fine motors skills a real work out by way of Funky Fingers activities every day as we come into school. This will begin to look a little different as we will also incorporate more formal name and number practice so that we can look back and see the progress we have made over the half term. We will also be threading, cutting and playing with playdough. We will focus holding things like cutlery, pencils and paint brushes in the most effective way. During our PE sessions that support the development of our gross motor skills, will be playing games with Miss Allen on Mondays, and Dancing with Ms Ludlam on Fridays. In our outdoor area we will continue climbing and exploring different ways of moving as well as using the environment to support our more formal learning times. Our PE days are now on Monday and Friday, your child should wear their PE uniform all day, have long hair tied back, and they should not have any earrings in. If your child has difficulties with PE Kits please come and speak with us and we will work out the best way forward together.

In Literacy (L) we are continuing to learn more phonemes (sounds) and their corresponding graphemes (how they look on paper). We are also going to be thinking about the digraphs that



create slightly different sounds when they are put together. I will post on Tapestry and on the website this half terms focus.

The spring term generally sees children begin to choose to write for a purpose and from their own intrinsic motivation. This half term there will be lots of talking, reading and writing about Winter, Animals and their habitats. We will also be looking closely at writing captions to go with our drawings.

In Maths (M) we will be thinking about composition of number and we will move on to exploring capacity, length and time as we think about different ways of measuring things.

In Understanding the World (UW) we think a little more about past and present as we remember Christmas (which is why the role play area is Santa's Grotto for one more week before it becomes a Vet's. We will then move on to learning about where we might find different types of animals, ie domestic, exotic, farm etc and we will be learning some subject specific vocabulary and what it means, such as Nocturnal.

In Expressive Arts and Design (EAD) we continue to sing songs, paint, roleplay, make models and think about how to join different materials together.

Recommended activities to support learning:

Literacy	Please practice your child's flashcards and reading books regularly and as they say goes "Teamwork makes the dream work"... Cheesy but accurate! Play eye spy using the sound that words begin with and giving extra clues, for example 'I spy with my little eye someone beginning with M or D' or sibling names. You might also play games such as I spy as this will help children apply their Phonic knowledge in a different and fun way. It also helps children to see the 'usefulness' of their learning
Maths	This half term it would be useful to draw children's attention to the time of day and where they are in the week, as we will look at this later this term. Length and height, and capacity will also be investigated so using the language in everyday situation and pointing out when we use different vocabulary will help too, for example we measure people in height and books in length. It might be fun to order your family by height using the words tall, taller, tallest and short, shorter and shortest.
PSED	We continue to talk a lot about using kind hands and voices etc. and about playing cooperatively with others. Any reinforcing of this you can do outside school is really valuable and makes their time in school a happier one. We will be using the PE scheme to introduce scenarios such as friendships and changes at home or school, and talk about how we might deal with these.



PD

Following the rules of games will be a focus in their PE sessions with Miss Allen and so reinforcing the need to listen to and remember these will be a very useful skill that you can reinforce at home.

Keep going with getting shoes on the right feet, managing jumpers and zips and even turning clothes the right way before putting them on (coat sleeves are the trickiest) as they are all essential learning in Year R.

Any help children you can give your children to become more independent and lead their own learning, away from these essential, and somewhat boring tasks will ensure that they have more time for what they recognise as 'learning times' but actually these little snippets of learning and skills practice are just as important when considering the holistic development of your children!

### Home Learning

- Reading at least three times every week. We have the online reading app for you to use to record reading at home, so you won't need to worry about finding a paper reading record. A letter detailing how to access this will be sent to you before the start of term.
- Phonics for EYFS and KS1 as well as any children receiving phonics interventions. You will be aware of the phase that your child is at based on their decodable phonics book – you will receive flash cards on a loan basis to rehearse sounds at home.

Kind regards,

Ms Ludlam