

HOME COMMUNICATION LETTER

20th January 2017

Dear Parents/Carers of Children in Willow Class,

The children have made a fabulous start back after Christmas, they are all doing so well and I'm proud of them all: I'm sure you are too. They are such a lovely class! It was super to have such positive and informative conversations with you all at Parents' Evening and thank you for your input.

Topic: Our topics this term will, once again, be led by the children's interests. The themes will lend themselves beautifully to classwork based on the Early Learning Goals, for example:

- Literacy - phonics, stories, rhymes, poetry, non fiction writing
- Maths - reading & writing numbers, counting, measuring
- Understanding the World - living things, similarities, differences, patterns and change, using technology
- Expressive Arts & Design - art and craft activities, dance, learning songs
- Communication and Language - listening attentively, following instructions, speaking clearly and using the correct tenses
- Physical Development - control and co-ordination in large and small movements, health and safety
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development - confidence to try new activities, working as part of the class or in a group

Literacy: The children will continue to bring home reading books each day. Please keep up the super work you are doing as your support with reading practise is making all the difference to your child's progress. Your comments in the Reading Record book are extremely useful so again, many thanks.

We will continue work on learning new letters and sounds, now moving onto digraphs (2 letters that make 1 sound). We will be developing knowledge of digraphs, tricky words (words that are not decodable) and gradually increasing the children's independence when writing simple phrases and sentences including the use of full stops and spaces between words.

Words containing digraphs and tricky words will be added to the children's home learning in their yellow sounds book as your child is ready for them, so please ensure these are kept in their book bags. You might like to start asking your child to spell these words but only once they are truly competent at reading them. As the children are now learning so many sounds, some children can start to find retaining all of them difficult so I would like to stress the value of regular practice. Thank you.

Maths: This term the children will be building on the skills that they have acquired; they will be developing their understanding of counting, adding and subtracting through practical activities, games and discussion, problem solving, investigating shapes and measuring. You can give valuable support at home by practising number writing and giving practical opportunities to apply maths eg. cooking, shopping etc.

R.E: We will continue thinking about our school values of Love, Hope and Courage plus we will include work on Special Places and of course Easter.

P.E Our PE days will be on a Tuesday and a Thursday. The children will be working on control, co-ordination, movement and spatial awareness through Games and Gymnastic skills.

Library Books Willow class now have library cards and each child will be able to choose 2 books at a time from our lovely school library. I will begin sending these home next week and books may be returned as your child finishes them ready for new ones. As the children will now have library books I will not be sending regular 'sharing' books from the classroom.

Show and Tell time will continue to be a regular slot on a Thursday. This is an opportunity for the children to show and talk about something relating to our topic, an item of personal significance or something that they've taken time to make at home.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Mrs Catherine Hall