



Reception Newsletter – Friday 3rd December 2021

Literacy

We have now finished our sharing of the story, 'Look Up' by Nathan Bryon. Last week our work culminated in some wonderful writing! The children retold the story in their own words and were even able to add in some of their own ideas to change the story a little bit. This week our literacy learning has been centred around our new focus text, 'I am Henry Finch' by Alexis Deacon. This is a story about a small bird who lives with a large and noisy flock of finches. He discovers the power of thinking and is able to use his thoughts to help him solve a big problem. We have enjoyed making our own finches and have also used our writing skills to help us write short sentences to describe what our own thoughts might be if we were in a worrying situation, like Henry Finch.

Maths

This week our number exploration has led us to study the numbers 4 and 5. We have been practising writing the numerals, as well as counting amounts carefully and recognising groups of items up to 5 as quickly as possible. We are also learning about the ways we can make 4 and 5 using different combinations and how we can make arrays of these amounts in different ways.

Phonics

The children are making excellent progress in their phonics; they are learning new sounds daily and are beginning to apply this knowledge to words when reading and spelling. Over Christmas we would like the children to practise their sight recognition of Phase 2 words. They are able to blend these, however we would like them to practise reading them a little more quickly on sight. Thank you for your continued support with this.

Spelling

Our formal spelling assessments will begin next week. We will be testing the children on their ability to spell a collection of ten words (see below). These words have been taught to the children during our phonics sessions over the course of the term but please also practise these at home. If the children are able to spell the words confidently then challenge them to write the words within the context of a sentence. Children's spelling scores will be sent home before the Christmas break.

to, the, no, go, I, into, as, at, it, in

Reading

We are extremely proud of the progress the children are making in their reading, both when reading words in isolation and when tackling sentences in their reading books. We understand that, as early readers, our children are still developing in their reading skills and are still heavily reliant on blending sounds together to read words. As children read more, they will begin to recognise more words on sight and this will speed up their reading. Thank you for your help in supporting children to read 5 times a week (including Reading Eggs). We understand that you are very busy, however this support is really having an impact on the children's reading progress. Please remember, children do not need to read entire books in one sitting. Little and often is very effective! Also, please do let a member of the Reception team know if your child needs reminding to change their reading book.

It's a Baby!

We are in the midst of filming our Christmas nativity, 'It's a Baby!' The children have been working so hard learning songs, practising dance routines and recording narration. Thank you for your support in sourcing costumes. The children look fantastic in them and we can't wait to share our performance with you all on Friday 10th December.

Christmas Party

On Thursday 16th December we will be having our Reception Christmas Party. On this day the children are invited to come to school wearing their party clothes. Following our Christmas worship, the morning will be spent making decorations and Christmas crafts in preparation for our party in the afternoon. We ask that children bring a small and clearly labelled plate of party food with them to enjoy before they go home. Please note that this food will just be for your child and will be in addition to their school lunch so need not be substantial; just a few of their favourite party treats.

Elf Run

Reception children will be participating in the annual St Rocco's sponsored run during the last week of term. This year the run has an elf theme, so all children will be provided with elf hats and ears before they run. Sponsorship forms were sent home last week and these should be returned to school before the end of term so that they can be quarantined and collected by St Rocco's in the new year. This event is always great fun and a wonderful way to raise money for cancer patients and their families.

**Thank you for your continued support,
The Reception Team**