

# Autumn 2 Topic Letter

## It's that magical time of the year...

Dear Parents

We have had a wonderful first term and have learnt so much already. The children are loving the new classroom and resources. They have been enjoying creating amazing designs and making some incredible art work. We hope to continue their love of learning with our new topic, 'It's that magical time of the year.'

### Just a few reminders:

Please make sure your child has a suitable waterproof coat with a hood and a hat, scarf and gloves as the weather gets colder.

Please can you make sure all belongings are named as things have started to go missing and often get muddled up.

We cover Physical Development throughout the week. Some examples of this are—Dough Disco, obstacle courses, jumping, riding the bikes, throwing, catching, digging and balancing. We provide lots of opportunities to develop fine and gross motor skills throughout the continuous provision. So don't be concerned if your child has not used their PE kit they are still getting lots of exercise.

### Tapestry

Please keep checking your child's tapestry account, it's a great way to keep up to date with what they are learning and achieving. It's great to see lots of positive comments on your child's learning. If you have any evidence that will help us assess your child and shows something

they have achieved or an experience they have had, PLEASE upload this to their account as it is really helpful. For example, if they can Ski, Swim, Ride or Climb trees this is an excellent example of evidence towards the 'Physical Development' part of the curriculum which I can't observe at school! If out on a walk and they point out a variety of shapes or notice changes in the environment it all counts.

## **It's that magical time of the year...**

### **Literacy**

This term Reception will be continuing in short daily RWinc sessions to secure their recognition of all of Set1 sounds. We will be focussing on blending and segmenting simple CVC words. We will be emphasising the importance of learning 'red' words which the children cannot read using their phonics skills. Some of us will be beginning to form simple sentences with support!

Reception will continue to take home reading books to share at home along with their RWInc phonic formation book and green word cards to practise reading.

We will be promoting independent mark making and making sure the children understand the different purposes of writing/mark making. For example, we will be making Christmas cards and writing lists to Santa Claus!

We will be looking closely at Non-fiction books about polar animals and how they are different to the fiction stories we are used to sharing. We will be using lots of power words and adjectives to describe fireworks and things during our festivals celebrations.

A big thank you to parents/legal guardians for supporting your child with their reading, phonics cards and mark making at home. Please continue to do so as this has been shown to have a massive impact on your child's learning.



## **Mathematics**

We are following the White Rose maths scheme along with the fantastic Numberblocks. The children have enjoyed meeting numbers 1-5 so far. Looking at the shapes related to each of the numbers ie number 1 likes circles, number 3 likes triangles, number 4 likes squares and rectangles and number 5 likes pentagons. We have also looked the 1p, 2p and 5p. If you can continue to build on this at home while out for a walk or in a shop letting the children look at the coins etc.

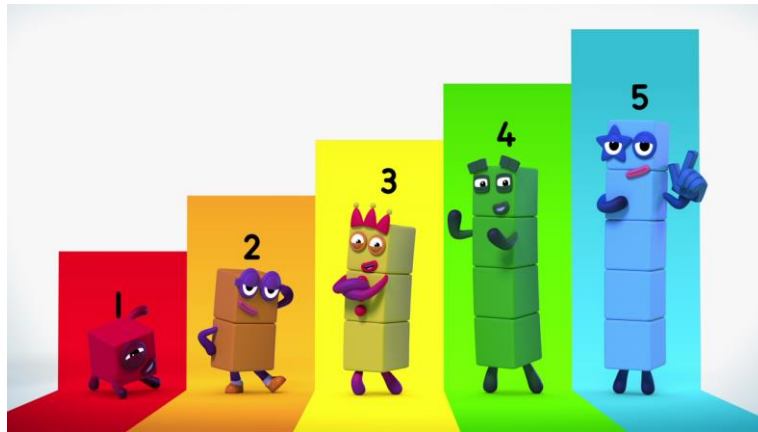
This term Reception will be looking at sorting objects, comparing groups of identical and non-identical objects; using vocabulary such as more than/fewer than, equal to, the same as.

They will be looking at change within 5 so one more/one less. Supporting at home with questions like if you have 3 apples and I give you one more how many do you have now? If you have 3 biscuits and then eat one, how many are left?

Supporting your child with understanding events which happen during for example you get up at 7am, you go to school at 9am, you have dinner at 6pm etc. Asking them what happened yesterday in school, what do they think might happen tomorrow. Reminding them what day of the week it is as well which we will be building upon within school.

In Nursery they will be continuing to recognise numbers 1-5 and counting beyond 10. With learning lots of nursery rhymes to support their fluency in

counting like 10 green bottles, 5 little ducks and 5 little speckled frogs. Please ensure if they are counting at home that they are counting accurately by pointing/touching one object at a time and saying a number.



## **Understanding the World**

This term we will be looking at the changes in the environment from autumn to winter like freezing and melting, getting colder, getting darker quicker etc. We will be learning about nocturnal animals including owls, hibernation, polar animals and many more. We will be exploring day and night. We will be comparing Diwali to our bonfire night. Along with looking at how Christmas is celebrated around the world.



## **Personal, Social, Emotional Development**

These skills are promoted at all times and we work on these attributes in everything we do in Early Years as they are very important. However this term we will be particularly focussing on:

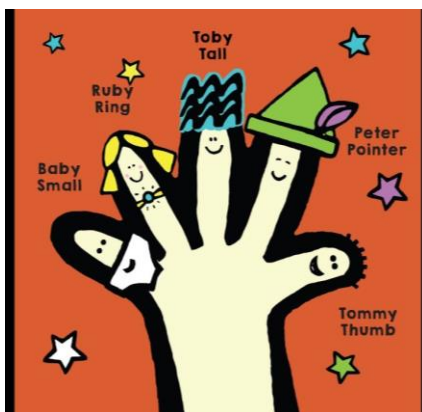
- Promoting sharing/turn taking.
- Playing with a wider range of children and inviting other children to join in with our games.
- Being able to accept delay and understand we don't always get what we want straight away.
- Being able to share desires/needs.
- Using how and why questions appropriately.

## **Communication and Language**

We will be learning our Christmas songs for the school play and practising using some instruments to accompany. The children will be developing their listening skills to be able to follow multiple instructions. We will be continuing to develop a wide range of vocabulary based on our new topic. In Reception they will be continuing to listen to the new sounds in RWI.

## **Physical Development**

As it's the Christmas show we will be looking at ways to move to the music and create actions. All children will take part in Dough Disco using theraputty to help strengthen the muscles in their fingers supporting their fine motor skills. They also complete daily finger gym exercises including, using tweezers, balancing objects on golf tees and following the pattern.



Nursery and Reception will be working on pencil control and using the correct pencil grip. In Nursery and Reception we will be working very hard to make sure we are correctly forming all of the letters in our name. We will be reminding children about the correct starting position for each letter. Some of us will be beginning to think about the size of our writing and begin to write along a line. In Reception we will be forming words and sentences.

We will be promoting independent toileting at all times and will continue to spend a lot of time working on this. We will also be revisiting hand washing to make sure the children are effectively washing their hands.

## **Expressive Art and Design**

We will be promoting independent use of the craft and painting areas. We hope the children will create their own work and have their own ideas independently. The children will be experimenting and working what we can use to cut and stick and attach items together. We will be practicing our Christmas Play, developing our acting and singing skills. We will be thinking about how we can act like our character. We will also create artwork related to fireworks and celebrations such as Christmas. We will be promoting construction for a purpose like Christmas cards and decorations.

