



Friday 6th October 2017

Dear Parents,

We cannot believe that the children have now been in school for three whole weeks! They are all doing a fantastic job of learning class routines and making new friends. It has definitely being a busy couple of weeks and as we head towards half term children are beginning to get tired. Please ensure that your child is getting plenty of rest, especially as the season of colds and snuffles has begun!

A highlight this week was going to assembly with the rest of the school to celebrate Harvest Festival. The children really enjoyed getting to stand up to perform their harvest song. We would like to perform this to family and friends next week. On Thursday 12th October please arrive at 2.55pm to watch us. Hopefully the sun will be shining and we can perform outside amongst the autumn leaves!

Area	What we have learnt	Ideas to support at home
Topic	This week we have focused on sound and what we can hear. We have enjoyed our music lesson learning about high and low notes and have played different instruments in class.	Talk with your child about their different senses and what they are used for. Play 'I spy with my little eye...', 'I smell with my little nose...', 'I hear with my little ear...'
Phonics	We have started to segment a word to hear the different letter sounds, for example c/a/t. We are focusing on identifying the first sound and have sorted different objects according to their initial sound ('s', 'a' and 't').	Whilst reading a story encourage children to hear the initial sound in a word. These should be short words, ideally with a consonant/vowel/consonant. For example <u>r</u> at, <u>d</u> og, <u>c</u> up Continue to play rhyming and sound games.
Literacy	Our focus book this week was 'Peace at Last' we enjoyed retelling the story and acting out the different sounds in the story. Children have talked about what keeps them awake at night; apparently there is a lot of snoring! We have applied our phonic skills to hear the initial sound in word and then used a sound mat to write it down.	Put on your imaginary storytelling hat and together think of different actions for a favourite book. Encourage children to retell it to friends and siblings. For children to be successful writers they need to have good fine motor control to help them form letters. Playdough, threading beads, weaving, mixing all help children build up their stamina and control so please make time for these activities at home.
Mathematics	We have explored how we can sort different objects. We have focused on sorting by colour, size and type (for example shape). We have linked this to phonics and also sorted by initial letter sound.	Children love sorting! Buttons can be sorted into size or colour, cutlery can be sorted by type, clothes by colour. The list is endless and some of the sorting can be quite helpful – we have the classroom very organised now!

Parent helpers: We would welcome any parents who are to come and help out in class. This might be with an hourly slot every week to help children with reading and early maths skills. It might be a one off time to come in and talk to the children about your job or culture. If you are interested in lending some time and sharing your skills please talk to your child's class teacher.

P.T.O

PE kits: The weather is definitely getting cooler and children now need to have long trousers and a sweatshirt for PE every week. We had a number of children this week who were too cold to join in. Feel free to pop into your child's class at the end of the day to check what they do have in their kit and what they need.

Family photos: Thank you very much to everyone who has sent a family photo in, these are now up on display in the class and children are enjoying talking about these with their friends. If you have not yet sent a photo in please do, so all the children have the opportunity to share their family with the class.

Parent consultation slips: Thank you to everyone who has returned their slip. If you have not yet done so please do – the sooner you return them the more likely it is that you will get your preferred time.