



Dear Parents/Carers, welcome back! I hope you all had a relaxing break and are refreshed and eager to return to school. I would just like to say how wonderfully settled and happy the children are and how keen they are to try new things. They are a joy! We are really looking forward to another busy term ahead of us.

We will be starting this term by reading the wonderful picture books 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson and Leaf Man, before moving onto The Gruffalo's Child and Stickman. We shall be acting out the story and creating wonderful images using things we find on our autumn walk. If you have anything you would like to send in linked to the Gruffalo; it would be greatly appreciated. We will also be investigating British Woodland Wildlife and hibernation and how animals survive the winter.

Our R:E focus this term is, Incarnation. We shall be asking the BIG question, 'Why do Christians perform nativity plays at Christmas?' We shall be breaking this down into six sessions starting with 'Were we all babies once?' and 'Was Jesus a special baby?' We shall be reading the 'First Christmas' and 'Jesus' Christmas Party' by Nicholas Allan as well as role-playing the nativity and learning lots of Christmas Carols. The children will have plenty of opportunities to explore their understanding through discussion; role-play; stories; carols and other creative activities. We would love a 'special visitor' with a small baby so that the children can ask lots of questions about babies – if you are able to help us, then please come and speak to me to arrange this.

Our curriculum focus this term in phonics is Phase 2 Letters and Sounds: –**Set 3:** g, o, c, k **Set 4:** ck, e, u, r, **Set 5:** h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss, concentrating on blending sounds for reading and segmenting sounds for spelling. Please help your child to make this learning as multisensory as possible at home as previously suggested last term, you might like to eat food associated with a particular sound (egg rolls) for instance. Our Little Big Maths Learn Its are: My finger doubles to 10 i.e. $5 + 5 = 10$; $2 + 2 = 4$ and continuing with My Body Learn Its: 1 head; 2 hands; 5 fingers etc.

I shall be holding an after school phonics and early reading/writing workshop to help you support your child at home on Thursday 16th November at 3.20pm. The session will last approximately 20 minutes and will be held in the Foundation Classroom. I will of course make any hand-outs available to those of you who are unable to attend. I would like to invite you to take part in DEAR time sessions (Drop, Everything, and Read) on Monday afternoons. This will run from 2.50 – 3.10 for you to come in and use our reading room in the Foundation Class and share stories together with your child. We can only accommodate a few parents in any one session, so please let me know if you are interested in taking part.

We are reading every day in class so please make sure your child comes to school with their reading book and signed reading record ready to read. Children really do miss out if they don't have their reading books or reading records. The records form a dialogue between home and school on your child's reading development and the comments made identify next steps in their progress. I would like books read through twice where possible. The first read is a pre-read to practise decoding and blending and the second (reread) is to build early comprehension and inference skills. Please remember to sign the reading record and to tick off the tricky words in the middle of the reading record as your child learns them.

Thank you

Mrs Messenger Mrs Harvey Mrs Anglim & Mrs Kuetineous