



J1 Autumn Newsletter 2018

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn Term. We are looking forward to a busy few weeks and we have already started with Bonfire Night and Diwali this week.

We have discussed a simplified version of these topics, linked to our Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) area of learning, providing opportunities to talk about cultures, beliefs and the benefits of acceptance and tolerance. Within the reception class, this can be simplified to 'getting on and falling out'. Within this topic, we intend to work on developing the social skills of friendship, working well together in a group, managing anger and resolving conflict. The particular skills we are working on are:

- knowing when to and being able to say sorry
- asking for help from friends
- knowing how to make oneself feel better when angry
- thinking of ways to sort things out when there is disagreement
- understanding when other people are angry

A key skill for development is the ability to look at a situation from different perspectives. To foster this skill we shall be focussing on role play and drama techniques such as hot seating, and assigning simple roles. When sitting in the 'hot seat', children are asked to share their thoughts and feelings, as if they were the assigned character. This is not as complicated as it sounds and can be greatly assisted by wearing costumes or holding props. It is also a useful literacy skill and assists with developing language for communication and thinking as well as creative story writing skills.

During our Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas preparations we shall be working on firework paintings, making rockets,

spiral patterns, Christmas decorations and learning simple poems and songs.

Our topic this half term will be Fairy Tales and it will extend across all the areas of learning. We will explore properties of 2D and 3D shapes when making pictures and models of fairy tale houses, wolves and little pigs. The children will be encouraged to plan and record their work using their developing literacy skills.

Letterland

We are continuing to revise initial sounds and blend them to make words. The children know the Letterland characters and the sounds they make but are at different stages in hearing and identifying sounds in words as well as blending sounds. This is largely developmental and cannot be hurried, but all the children benefit from regular practice and lots of praise!

Reading

The children are doing well with their key words from our Oxford Reading Tree scheme and we will be sending a few more as the term progresses. Most children can identify words from the first set:

'Biff, Chip, Kipper, Mum, Dad and Floppy'

Once key words have been mastered you can use them at home to build new words by substituting first the initial, then the final and middle sounds. For example, Dad can be used to build these words by substituting the initial sound:

Dad, bad, fad, had, lad, mad, pad, sad

We can then change the end sound for Dad, or any of the words made by substitution above:

*Dad, dab,
bad, bag, ban, bap(soft bread roll), bat
fad, fan, fat
had, hag, ham, has, hat*

Changing the middle sound of any of the above words provides us with:

*did, dud
bed, bid, bud
beg, big, bog, bug
Ben, bin, bun
bop
bet, bit, but
fit
fin, fun
hit, hot, hut
hog, hug
hem, him, hum
his
hid*

In this way your child will learn to use words they know to build new words.

You could also play a 'circle' game, changing one letter at a time to get back to the starting word, e.g.

pip → tip → tin → tan → man → map → mop → pop → pip!

Start with a different word each time and see how long you can make the chain before you get back to the starting word.

'Rock a Bye Baby'

J1 will be participating in our Junior production on **Thursday 29th November and Friday 30th November**. Please could costumes be sent to school in a named carrier bag on Friday 16th November. The children will also need a pair of black plimsolls. Most children have a pair in school which they can use, if not please send a pair in as soon as possible. We are looking forward to a very exciting performance. Tickets will be available in the hall on Thursday 15th and Friday 16th November 2018.

Parent's Open Evening – Monday 19th November

Times for open evening will be available to book from Monday 12th November. Slots are 10 minutes each and will provide an opportunity for you to discuss your child's first term in J1 and to peruse their work.

Dates for your diary

Friday 9th November: Bonfire Night - 6pm
Monday 12th November: Handwriting workshop - 6.30pm start
Friday 9th November: Remembrance Service 10am
Mon 19th November: Parent's evening
Fri 7th November: FOMC Xmas Bazaar- 1–3:30pm
Tuesday 27th November: 'Stickman' theatre trip
Thursday 29th November:
'Rock a Bye Baby' 9.15am and 2pm
Friday 30th November
'Rock a Bye Baby' 9.15am
Monday 10th December: Christmas Jumper day – Wear your favourite jumper for charity!
Tuesday 11th December: Christmas lunch and parties
Thursday 13th December: Carol Service St John's Church 6pm
Friday 14th December: Prizegiving 9.15am, please note that school ends at midday. (No hats, no caps on the last day of term.)



Kind regards

Miss Amphlett, Mrs Harding,
Miss Smith and Miss Thatcher