

Dear Parents/Carers

January 2016



Welcome back! We hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas break.

Due to the children's enthusiasm for dinosaurs, our topic for this term is 'Reception and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs'. We will be looking at the 'Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs' books as well as learning about different dinosaurs from non-fiction books and the Natural History Museum website ('Dino Directory'). We will be teaching the children based on the questions that they asked as part of our 'Growth Green' diagram about dinosaurs. Growth Green diagrams will be completed before every topic with the children. They are spider diagrams which show the questions children have asked about a topic before it is taught. These questions are used to inform planning and learning opportunities. Then, at the end of a topic, the children help to complete a 'Yippee Yellow' diagram which shows statements the children have shared about their learning of a Topic (please see the Yippee Yellow diagram for Christmas and the Growth Green for Dinosaurs displayed in the window!).

In Maths we continue to develop skills in the following: counting (0-20 and beyond); number patterns; addition (number bonds to 5 or 10); subtraction; time (o'clock, days of the week), money (counting and coin recognition), 3D and 2D shape; measuring skills (non standard units to weigh and measure, e.g. unifix bricks, hand-spans) and sharing and halving. The children will be encouraged to use maths knowledge to solve simple problems and play games.

Here are a few ideas to help your child at home

- Read with your child regularly and talk about the book and the story characters. We will continue to use our reading tree in class, so please continue to support your children by reading with them on a daily/regular basis.
- Look at non-fiction books together discuss how they differ from story books e.g. contents and index pages.
- Play simple counting and adding games e.g. snakes and ladders, ludo, dominoes or adding two dice together.
- Talk about your child's day and share your day with them.
- Practise letter and word formation, e.g. writing name, making lists, writing a simple letter, or making labels.

In RE, our theme is Christenings.

This term our Christian value is perseverance- we will be encouraging the children to be a stickasaurus and a tryatops. (Please refer to your information on achievousaurs from the workshop on characteristics of effective learners).

We would like to encourage children to bring in relevant toys or books to show on **Wednesday** and **Friday** when we have our show and tell sessions (please see the new timetable overleaf, which will also be displayed in the 'parent information' window). It would help your child if you talked about their object before they did Show and Tell e.g. why did they choose it? What do they do with it? Why is it special? How did they make it? How does it make them feel? Where did they get it from?

The children continue to enjoy our daily milk and fruit sessions, so we value your weekly fruit contributions. We thank you for your continued support with your child's reading. It is useful if they bring their book bag to school every day. As we are introducing guided reading this term your child will only change their books on Thursday or Friday, but they will be given extra books (a choosing book and two reading books).

We would be grateful if parents could make contributions of spare underwear/ tights and socks / school trousers/ skirts/ dresses, so that children can be changed if accidents occur. Unfortunately not many of these items of clothing have been returned when children have taken them home.

PE days - Wednesday and Friday. Please ensure your child has a named tee shirt and shorts in a bag. Our sessions will include dance and games.

Thank you.