



★ Newsletter ★

3rd December 2021

Can you believe it is already December? Christmas countdown is officially on and we are loving hearing what their mischievous elves have been up to at home. Something that both myself and Miss Lancashire have escaped for at least another year whilst our little ones are just a little bit too small to fully enjoy an elf!

This half term has not exactly gone to plan. We have both found it very strange having so many children off at any one time but hopefully, those numbers are starting to plateau now. We really do miss our isolating children, we wish them all well and look forward to seeing them soon. Thank you for your continued support and your regular LFT/PCR testing. We are hoping to avoid catching it ourselves in the lead up to Christmas as we are sure lots of you are too! The children act in such a grown up manner about all of it and to them 'covid' is just another word in their vocabulary. They are producing fantastic pieces of work at home and we can see how their Take Care attitudes are thriving with you as their teachers too!

We are still currently managing the outbreak and just wanted to take the opportunity to bring some of the key guidelines together that have been given to us by Nottingham County Council during this time. Mr Tomlinson has been updating these regularly on the website over several letters but we thought we would bring them together in one space;

- regular handwashing
- minimising contact between different groups and classes
- all classes are now to be PCR tested (this was updated on 29th November) – we know lots of you have already done this. For further details on this, please see Mr Tomlinson's original letter
- teachers to wear masks outside the classroom
- well-ventilated classrooms
- siblings to isolate where there is a positive case in the household

You will also now be aware that regrettably we have had to put our Nativity on hold. We felt that in the circumstances this was the correct decision. We have so many children across the classes who are having to isolate for ten days that it has been impossible to rehearse properly. The children have worked so hard to learn the songs and their lines and we are hopeful that everyone will be healthier in the new year. I have told the children that this at least gives us something to look forward to in January! Thank you so much for your understanding.

On to a much cheerier note, throughout the month of December, we will be selecting our advent star. The chosen child will not only receive a chocolate but will also be able to keep our advent story of the day. The calendar was donated by Mr Maddison and is already a firm favourite in our class. In the final week of term we hope that we can provide a space for the children to relax, rewind and get ready to spend time with their family and friends over Christmas so you will not be surprised to hear that we plan on having a Christmas Party, a Christmas Craft Day and a whole lot of fun!

Maths:

The children have been introduced to the addition symbol and finding addition fact families. We were so impressed that so many of them could find all 4. Not even the moving of the = signs could trick our clever lot!

$$6 + 4 = 10$$

$$4 + 6 = 10$$

$$10 = 6 + 4$$

$$10 = 4 + 6$$

We focused on addition within 20, using practical resources and other methods, including, using a number line to add two numbers together. We also tried to increase our fluency with our number bonds to 10. We played Hit the Button and noticed a considerable improvement in how many we got right in the time limit. This is such a good game that can be played anywhere. Fluency in number bonds will really help with so many different aspects of Maths.

We have now introduced the subtraction symbol. The children are beginning to show an excellent understanding that when we subtract we know the number gets smaller. We will then be building up to finding fact families of 8 as well as introducing them to different ways we can subtract numbers from each other.

English:

This week in English we have been looking at the Nativity story. The children have been learning a piece of talk for writing off by heart and have had a go at sequencing pictures and writing the story based on this. We have been blown away by how much progress we can see in this piece of writing. We have also been working hard on our non-chronological reports. The children came up with questions about a particular planet and then had a go at asking these questions on google to find out the answer. We have learnt so many amazing facts – good job they are sponges because most of the time, they remember more than us!

Homework:

After the success of the Place Value booklet, we would like your child to have a go at the addition and subtraction booklet. This is closely linked to the methods we have been using in class. We would recommend starting on addition as we are still going through the subtraction concepts! We also sent out spellings for this term and would actively encourage you to re-visit these with your child when time allows. We can already see that so many of them are doing an excellent job with these both in terms of their spellings and reading.

Reading:

WOW, so many children have already reached the 25 reads mark with so many already aiming for the 50 reads. Such superstars. At the end of the term these children will be given a reward in front of the whole school! We hope that you have found the question bookmarks useful – we will also be referring to these in class during our reading sessions.

Additional Information:

- P.E. days will continue to be Thursday and Friday this half term and the children will need appropriate outdoor kit as the weather turns colder.
- Christmas Dinner Day: December 15th
- Class Party: TBC
- Nativity: 25th/26th January (more details to follow)

Miss Evans and Miss Lancashire

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