



# ★ Newsletter ★

10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

I hope you all had an enjoyable half term break – your children returned to school on Tuesday full of enthusiasm and news to share – it sounds like there were some very scary costumes on show for trick or treating and lots of excitement that it was also bonfire night over the holiday.

It feels like Christmas has crept up on us all of a sudden – mainly because half term has been a week later than usual this academic year. We are now busy learning our songs for the Key Stage 1 and Reception Nativity 'I'm Gonna Shine' which will take place in early December (not so far away!!) If your child is in year 2, they will very soon be provided with the lines they need to learn and your support with this at home would be very much appreciated!

We finished last half term with our harvest service (after a very damp walk to the church!) For those of you who were able to attend, I am sure you will agree that the children were fantastic and performed their song beautifully and with confidence – they have grown up so much and I was really proud of them all!

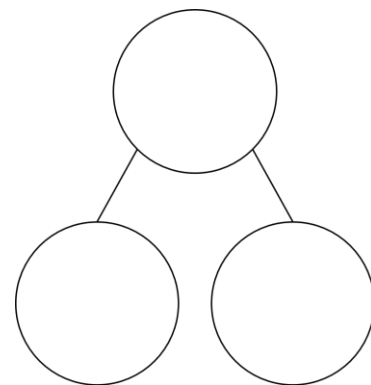
Forest School has been rather damp to say the least over the last two sessions! Despite the dreadful, wet weather, the children have still managed to enjoy the sessions as it is very sheltered under the trees and we have still been able to cover our intended learning objectives for science each week. Unfortunately we have had to pause our outdoor learning on the land owner request. I know the children have been disappointed about this and we will let you know when we will start this again.

We have such a busy and exciting half term ahead – lots of creative artwork, possibly some cooking as part of our Design and Technology topic, the Key Stage 1 Nativity performance, a visit to the pantomime, Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day to name a few things off the top of my head!! Your children will be ready for a lie down by the time we break up for Christmas!

Maths: As mentioned in the last newsletter, our work in maths focuses on addition and subtraction for the next few weeks.

Year one have been focusing their learning on parts, knowing that two parts create a whole. We call this model a part whole model.

The children have begun to formalise the idea of addition as bringing two or more parts together to create a whole. A more formal way of looking at addition will be covered later in this block. At this stage, the focus should be on bringing two parts together, rather than adding more.



Year two have spent time looking at the relationship between number bonds to ten and twenty. We have looked at the relationship between addition and subtraction knowing that we can use our knowledge of facts to help with the inverse. We call this a number family.

English: As mentioned in the last newsletter, our focus in English has been persuasive writing. Just before we broke up for half term, the children completed the unit with some wonderful persuasive writing about Forest School. The aim was to encourage visitors to spend a day at their imaginary venue by outlining key features and attractions. I was really pleased with the outcome of their written work! We have now moved onto a shorter unit of writing focusing on poetry. So far, the children have enjoyed performing a poem using actions and expression as well as highlighting key features of poem structure.

As with maths, the children will also complete a number of formal reading assessments next week which focus on comprehension and inference skills. We work on similar skills in daily reading sessions so the children should be familiar with the layout of the assessments.

Homework: Each child was given a homework book on the last day of term. Inside, there is a selection of activities linked to our main driver topic 'Movers and Shakers'. I have spoken to the class about homework and they understand that it is a choice – there is no pressure to complete all or any of the tasks between now and Christmas but I would be delighted to look at any work on a Friday morning either in the designated homework book or on a poster/photo where appropriate. Each piece of homework will be celebrated with the rest of the class and take care tokens will be awarded for the children's efforts.

Reading: Please aim to read with your child at least three times a week and continue to sign it in the diary pages of their planner. I will now continue to be checking diaries every Friday and will award stickers as a reward for regular reading.

#### Additional Information:

- P.E. – Children will require an indoor kit for Wednesday sessions and an outdoor kit for Friday mornings.
- Parents' Meetings: Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – thank you for returning your preferred time slots.
- Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December
- Pantomime at Newark Theatre: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Have a great weekend!

Miss Fisher