

Dear Families,

We hope you have enjoyed the half term. The children have settled very well into school and had lots of fun over the last term. We always plan topics for each term but also take into account children's interest so will try to include this into our weekly plans. Many children showed an interest in Dinosaurs which led us to planting a dinosaur egg and footprints in each class. The children loved this and it led to an investigation for the children to find out who had left the egg. Through this they learnt about shape, measurement and developed counting skills. Once the egg had hatched they went on a dinosaur hunt and then wrote letters for the dinosaur. The children were able to apply some of the phonics they had learnt in this.

This terms topic is 'Winter Wonderland'. Children will be learning about celebrations including Diwali, Bonfire night and Christmas. Key texts that we will plan the children's learning around include Stick Man, Jolly Postman, The Gruffalo, Beegu and Dear Zoo.

In phonics we will be continuing with Phase 2 and towards the end of the term will be going onto Phase 3. Below are the sounds and tricky words that the children will be learning. Thank you to all of those that attended the phonics talk and we hope it was of use. We have sent the handout for the talk home to all families.

Sounds we will learn each week.	Tricky words
H, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss J,v,w,x Y,z,zz,qu Ch, sh, th, ng Ai, ee, igh, oa, Oo, ar, or, ur	He, she, we, me, be, was, my, you

We will be teaching the children to sound out and write words and then how to structure and write a sentence. Which is something you can practise at home with your child. We plan writing into lots of the children's play experiences as children are more motivated to write if it is for a purpose.

Through practical experiences in maths we will be teaching the children to recognise and use numbers, begin to add two numbers together and to find one more and one less.

All children are on reading books now and we will change these books twice a week. We encourage you to read as often as possible with the children and they will be entered into a weekly raffle if they read seven times or more with you, just let us know in the reading journal. This does not have to be your child reading to you, it can be you reading to them as this is just as important.

As the weather is getting colder please can you ensure that your child comes with a warm coat each day and if you hadn't yet sent in wellies please would you be able to do so as soon as possible please.

We are looking forward to a very exciting term ahead and we will be starting on our Christmas play soon which are sure you will enjoy. We look forward to seeing you at parents evening next week.

The Foundation Stage Team