

11th January 2016

Dear Parents,

Firstly, may I say welcome back and Happy New Year! I would also like to offer my thanks and appreciation for all the kind words, cards and gifts I received at the end of last term. It was a wonderful final day of term and we couldn't have been prouder of the children and how they performed. I would like to just take this opportunity to inform you of this term's plans.

During this half term Class R's theme is 'Traditional Tales'. We will be looking at a range of tales including 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff', 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. In Literacy, children will have the opportunity to act out some traditional tales and re-tell stories. We will also be focusing on writing simple words. As part of Numeracy children will be learning to recite numbers from any given number, count objects, order numbers and find out about 3D shapes. As part of Understanding of the World, the children will be learning about materials through traditional tales, will make a house for the 3 little pigs, and conduct some experiments with porridge oats. P.E. will now take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The focus this term will be dance and gym. In Expressive Arts and Design they will make a bridge for The Three Billy Goats, create a beanstalk collage and will practise colour mixing to create various shades. Added to this they will be baking again this term and learning how to sew. We hope that the children will be able to enjoy a fairy-tale banquet at the end of this half-term.

After the half term break, Class R will be looking at 'Transport and Journeys', where we will be learning about journeys by, and to, land, sea, space and air. We will also be focusing on old and new transport.

For the children in Class R the most important home learning they do is their 'words and sounds' book and reading books. Each week, every child receives Oxford Reading Tree reading books. These are changed weekly if they have been read thoroughly. We ask that you **sign** the reading diary each time your child has read with you and make a comment. During the week your child will also receive a guided reading book which is a book we have read together at school. The children may like to read and explore books from a variety of places. The reading chest website <https://www.readingchest.co.uk> offers a variety of services. One of the most valuable being that if you click on your child's reading level it will give you a list of books, from a variety of schemes that will be appropriate for them.

Your child brings in many items of clothing into school which are essential part of the day to day running of the school routine. Please could I ask you to check that your child has the following items are in school and that they are clearly named:

- Indoor shoes,
- Indoor and outdoor PE kit,
- Spare underwear and socks inside their PE kit
- A water bottle (please make sure the children have a separate one for the classroom).

The maths workshop for parents will be at 2:30pm on Wednesday 20th of January. We will be looking at the two areas of mathematics covered in reception: number and shape, space and measure; and ways to support the children at home. All are welcome.

On the 2nd of February at 7.30 p.m. there will be an Assessment meeting to inform all parents about the tracking and assessment of children as they progress through primary school. At this meeting there will be an in-depth look at assessment against the Early Years Foundation Stage and the new baseline assessment.

Friday reading with the parents has been a great success and we will continue it this term. The list is attached. Also attached to the paper copy of this letter are the children's targets for the spring term. If you have any questions about what these mean, please do write in the communication book and I will get back to you.

Sadly for us, we lost Mrs Fossel at the end of last term, but I am pleased to be able to report that Miss Mills has been appointed as her replacement. Miss Mills should be starting next week.

And finally, I would like to say thank you for your on-going support.

Kind Regards

Miss Dolan

List of Parent Readers: Spring One

Friday 15 th of January	Ms Wilson
Friday 22 ^h of January	Mrs Linnegar
Friday 29 th of January	Mrs White (Georgia's Mum)
Friday 5 th of February	Mrs Godfry
Friday 12 th of February	Mrs Williams