



MARTON-CUM-GRAFTON CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Class 1 News

15th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a fun week in Class 1 and your children continue to be busy and brilliant!

Each week we will be presenting our **Class 1 Superstar** certificates. There will usually be one for a Reception child and one for a Nursery child. Our first certificates of the year were given to **Ronnie** (Nursery) for his increasing independence and enthusiastic 'have a go' attitude and to **Layla** for being so busy, taking turns and listening well and for settling into her new class so well. Fantastic effort Layla and Ronnie!

We also presented our first **Writer of the Week** certificate this week. Previously we have waited until later in the year to do this but seeing as drawing, mark-making and telling a story are all such an important part of the writing journey we would like to start doing them already. So, a big well done to **Henny**, who created a lovely picture when we were 'writing' about our family and also had a go at sounding out the names.

The children may have told you about their 'beanstalk' which they are all climbing by using their kind hands, feet and words and through good listening, looking and doing. The Reception children have 10 leaves to climb up to reach the castle and our Nursery learners climb the five flowers before reaching the same castle, at which point they may choose a small prize from our silver box! There were squeals of delight, from all of the children, when Henny and Jemima were first to the top. The beanstalk is displayed in the corner by the computers and reading area in our main class room so please feel free to pop in and ask your child to show you where they have got to.

This week we followed our friend, 'Pete the Cat' in another story 'I love my white shoes!' The Reception children have been sharing ideas to represent the story (pictures and actions) using the Talk 4 Writing initiative that is used as a learning tool across school.

We had lots of fun stepping into paint and making colourful footprints like Pete. Perhaps you could ask your child could to tell you the different things that Pete the cat stepped in.

In our Reception 'learning together times', the children have been working on the Phase 1 phonic skills which will prove so valuable as we move onto Phase 2 next week when we begin to teach the letters and sounds for reading and writing. Our Phase 1 learning has looked at rhyming words and also at segmenting and blending words. Examples of these would be, to take the word 'bed', segmenting (breaking down) to 'b - e - d' and blending those sounds together 'bed'. We played a game in which the children had to find an object to match the 'robot-talk', e.g, Can you find me a p - e - n? You could try this with items at home or out and about too. It really helps the children to hear the sounds that make up a word. We have also been counting forwards and back, reading numbers and also investigating long/tall and short. The children measured themselves with string which they then used to compare to things in our indoor and outdoor environments.

We have also been finding out about the Oxford Reading Tree characters, The Robinson Family. You may already be familiar with them, but did you know Kipper's real name is Christopher and Biff is a nickname for Barbara? The children did a fantastic job at 'reading the pictures' when they read the wordless book

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'Getting Up', one of the first in the ORT series. We talked about and drew pictures to show our own families. Our Nursery learners have talked about families too.

Our Nursery children have been working on using paint to make their fabulous self-portraits (Reception children have started on these too). As well as the number rhymes and counting that we always enjoy Nursery have also been focussing on the colour red (linked to Pete the Cat and colours) and the shape 'circle'. Can they spot any circles at home?

All of the children have enjoyed the outdoors, especially when we enjoyed a very windy day on Wednesday. One of our children made a paper kite and this interest soon spread quickly and lots of children have been making and running with their kites, the wind even caught one or two kites out of children's hands! Lots of fun and laughter!

If you have the camera to hand, do snap a photo of your child reading a favourite book, perhaps at bedtime, in the garden or out and about. They might be sharing a book with a friend or family member or enjoying a quiet moment. We would love to display them so please either send the photo in ready printed or email them to me at CW@marton-cum-grafton.n-yorks.sch.uk. (The same email address may also be used should you wish to get in touch and are unable to catch me at either end of the school day)

Dates for your diaries:

Friday 22nd September: Sharing Assembly, 2.30pm

Join the whole school in the hall as each class shares some of the learning that has taken place so far this term.

Monday 2nd October: Reception Stay, Play and Learn Together, until 10.30am

The **Reception** Children of Class 1 would like to invite a parent or carer to come and join them in their play and learning. Mrs Thirlaway and I will host an informal chat as close to 9am as possible (once all children are registered and settled) in which we will talk about how we teach phonics, reading and writing in school. You will then be able to join the children back in the classroom where you will be able to share in some of their activities and play. At around 10.30am we will start to get ready for snacktime, making it a good point for saying a quick goodbye before the children sit down to have their fruit and milk. You are welcome to join us for the just the talk at the beginning, part of the session or the whole morning until 10.30am.

We appreciate that not all parents who wish to will be able to attend on this date, but please do not worry as we will also send home the information we discuss and we will plan in further Stay, Play and Learn sessions through the school year. If you do plan to join us please sign up on the sheet in the Class 1 entrance (will go up on Monday) or send a message to let us know numbers.

Tuesday 3rd October: Whole School Harvest Festival, 9.15am

Join us at church as we celebrate Harvest. We hope to be singing a song which we will start learning next week.

We wish you all a happy weekend.

Best wishes from

Mrs Williams and The Early Years Team