



MARTON-CUM-GRAFTON CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Class 1 News

22nd September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week our **Class 1 Superstar** certificates were presented to **Isaac** and **Lucas**. Isaac has been coming into school with a growing smile and has been joining in with our activities so happily. Lucas has settled into school routines so well but also behaves ever so well and shows a really cheerful attitude to playing and learning. Both Isaac and Lucas are incredibly helpful members of the class.

This week we have given not one, but two **Writer of the Week** certificates! Eva H. and Arabella worked together in their independent play and learn time to write "about stories and writing". They used lots of letter shapes and different colours to share their ideas.

This week we continued to develop our **Talk 4 Writing** work. After representing the story of 'Pete the Cat: I love my white shoes' in pictures and actions we thought we could have a go at writing our own version. After lots of idea suggestions, Pete is now an elephant and, instead of stepping in strawberries and blueberries, Pete the Elephant now changes the colour of his shoes by stepping in green apples and then oranges!

All of Class 1 have been sharing the Bible story of **Noah's Ark**. We have worked together to create a handprint rainbow and the children have drawn some super animals for the ark. We also used the story to talk about choices and responsibilities. This has also encouraged our interest in colour, which we have been exploring since starting to read Pete the Cat.

We have enjoyed investigating colour when mixing paint with brushes and our hands. Often our paintings haven't been of anything in particular, but the process of splodging and spreading the colours on the paper has been lots of fun!

The children have also had a great time playing and creating with cardboard boxes. Boxes have been turned into houses, an ark, pirate ship, cars and much more!

This week the Reception children have begun their **Phase 2 Phonics** learning. This is when we start to look at reading and forming the letters used to represent sounds. Some of the children are already quite familiar with a number of letters and the sounds they make, this doesn't mean they aren't encountering new learning. We will now focus on correct pronunciation of the sounds and correct formation of letter shapes for those who are ready. As we learn more sounds will begin to use them to read and write words. This week we have introduced the letters and sounds **s, a, t** and **p**. This progression into the next phase of phonics learning does not mean that we leave 'Phase 1' behind. We will continue to explore sounds in the environment, in music and in words, stories and rhymes, when we share our learning together as a full Early Years class each day.

Some of our focus learning time this week has been spent on recognising and writing **number 3** and on **counting** objects accurately. We realised it was easy to muddle our counting if we went too quickly! Our Nursery learners have focussed on the colour **blue** and on shape of the week, '**square**'. Many of the children went on a shape hunt around school and explored the environment very sensibly as they

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pointed out the shapes the recognise.

We had nautical fun on Tuesday when we decided to mark what is apparently designated '**National Talk Like a Pirate Day**'! We started by answering the register as pirates but some of us shared our pirate voices and expressions through the day, some of the children were very dramatic and convincing in their pirate role! Many children chose to make pirate hats, eye patches and there were also quite a few treasure maps being created.

Lots of the children have been involved in play with **water**. They have been using brushes and water to 'paint' around the outdoor area and have also set up our guttering to make a channel for some water to flow down.

We have begun sharing smaller group story and songtimes at certain points in the week and the children have had a go at playing with sounds to name the groups. The names they have chosen are the Leaping Lions, Creeping Caterpillars and Tiny Tigers.

Reception Home Learning

Your Reception child will bring home their 'Home Learning Book' this weekend. This is as much a resource for you to see where we are up to as it is something for your child to do at home.

This week you will find the 'Jolly Phonics' actions we use to help us remember the sounds made by the letters. You may wish to support your child in drawing, or cutting and sticking, some pictures of things that use these letters and sounds or you may prefer to see how many things you can think of together that start with the sounds or how many, e.g. letter s shapes you can see, for example if you're on a car journey or out and about. Or, you may just like to write a short comment to say how your child is getting on with things.

Whether you do or do not use the book please return it to school by **Wednesday** each week so that the next letters and sounds / number / shape / interest learning suggestion can be added in ready to be sent home on the **Friday**.

*There is **no** obligation to record or put anything into the book, we know that time together is precious and being active and sharing lots of other experiences is so important.*

Dates for your diaries:

Friday 22nd September: Sharing Assembly, 2.30pm

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

A chance for Reception parents to meet with Mrs Thirlaway and Mrs Williams to find out about our approach to phonics, reading and writing, followed by the chance to join your child's playing and learning time in the classroom until just before 10.30am. The session will have an informal atmosphere and so if you are only able to come for part of the session then you are still very welcome! Please sign up in the class entrance.

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

Our Nursery children will stay in school but the Reception children will be walking to the church together and hope to be singing a song which we have started learning this week.

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes from

Mrs Williams and The Early Years Team