



MARTON-CUM-GRAFTON CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Class 1 News

6th October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week our Class 1 Superstar certificates went to **Betsy**, Reception, and **Amelia**, Nursery. Betsy has been such a busy little learner and has been really engaged in her independent crafts and creative play. Amelia has settled in so happily and is a really keen and smiley member of Class 1. A big well done to both girls, keep it up!

This week we have been delighted to see lots of children keen to write. Children have been sharing their drawings, mark-making and letters. **Esme** decided to make a card for her friend and so is our **Writer of the Week** because of her independence and enthusiasm.

We have had a very full week and not a spare moment! The children were really pleased to welcome some of their grown ups into the Reception learning on Monday morning. Thank you to those who came, I hope you found it interesting and/or useful. The children were very pleased to have extra company for their star jumps!

All children should have come home with an information leaflet about our phonics learning, please let me know if you did not receive this and we will get one to you.

On Tuesday morning the Reception children walked down to the church ready for the Harvest Service. We were really impressed with how they sat and listened and were so proud of how they bravely came up to the front to sing and move along to our Harvest Rock and Roll. It can't be easy to stand up and perform in front of a church full of children and adults!

Thank you for all of the foods you donated and to all who were able to come.

Thank you to those families who collected and brought in such an amazing number of conkers! The children across Class 1 have had a busy time noticing, touching and smelling the conkers. They looked very closely with the magnifying glasses and it was wonderful to hear such language about the texture and look of the conkers, conker cases, twigs and leaves.

More fun was had when the children realised that the different textures and shape of the conkers could be used to create interesting effects with paint on paper!

This week, our nursery learners have concentrated on the colour **purple** and have had a fun (and wonderfully messy!) time mixing red and blue paint to make it. They have also been learning about **rectangles**.

The Reception children continue to practise their blending and segmenting skills in our phonics learning and have been concentrating on learning the sounds made by letters **g, o, c** and **k**. (with c and k both representing the same sound of c for c-c-conker and k for k-k-key)

We have looked again at reading **it, is, in, am, as, at** and the children have applied their developing knowledge of letters representing sounds by reading and blending to make whole words and even worked together to read a caption for a picture, e.g. '**a pig is sad**'.

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We have been learning about the **number 5**, looking at the different ways it can be represented, e.g. the numeral, using objects, dots on a dice, cubes in a tower etc. and have practised writing it too: "*straight down for the back, around it's tummy and put on the hat!*"

We have been ordering numbers up to ten and then twenty and working out which number comes before and after a given number.

We have also been working on refreshing our mud kitchen a little. Should you happen to have any old or unused kitchenware such as pans, grills, baking trays, utensils etc then please do consider donating them to us for our outdoor play. They may be used to add to our mud kitchen resources or as a means for us to start work on a 'sounds wall/board' which we would like to develop with the children.

Reception Readers

It has been lovely to read the comments you have been making in your child's reading record, they are really helpful to us. The children are now bringing home a little set of 'sound cards' and we will add new cards to the treasury tag as we learn new sounds each week. You can use these to play little games such as turning over the card and saying the sound or showing a card to your child and asking what words they can think of in which they hear the sound (it doesn't have to be at the start of the word).

As children develop their phonic skills they will begin to bring books home with one or two words in. We will continue to send a wordless book. When your child does bring home a book with words please remember it is absolutely fine to tell them the word if they don't recognise it. They might be able to make a good guess if it is a character name as we have been learning about the characters as we have been sharing the books with Kipper, Biff and Chip in school. If it is a word that can be sounded out such as 'at' or 'on' you could encourage them to work out the word by asking them to put their finger under each sound as they say it.

Special Requests / notes

☺ Please keep bringing in smaller items of 'junk' for the children to use in their modelling. You would be surprised how quickly these creative little people can get through our tubs of boxes, yoghurt pots, plastic bottles and so on!

☺ Please could I also do an appeal for old handbags/workbags, hats (adult/child-sized) and also fabrics that you would be willing to part with for the children to use in their dressing up and role-play.

☺ The local newspapers, through the Harrogate Advertiser, have included their annual 'New Starters' features this week so do keep a look out for a photo of the Reception children from Class 1!

Dates for your diaries:

Monday 16th October and Wednesday 8th November: Reception Parent-Teacher dialogue meetings

Please note the change in from Wednesday 18th October to Wednesday 8th November, this is due to staff training. There will be a sheet in the Class 1 entrance for **Reception** parents to sign up for a 10 minute appointment, between 3.30 and 4.50pm, in which we will talk about how your child has settled into their Reception year and the next steps in their development. If you are unable to attend on these dates please do let me know, either by email or with a quick word before/after school, so that we can arrange a mutually convenient time either before or after school.

Please note, we will be hosting an informal 'drop-in' session, after half term, for **Nursery** parents to call in, look at their child's learning journey to date and speak to staff. Details to follow.

Best wishes from

Mrs Williams and The Early Years Team