



MARTON-CUM-GRAFTON CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Class 1 News

13th October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

A big well done to **Freddie** (Reception) and **Ollie Ca.** (Nursery). Freddie has been incredibly helpful and has been going out of his way to be part of the team at tidy up times, even in the areas he may not have accessed. He also brings with him a cheerful nature which he shares with us all day long! Ollie has been settling well into our nursery group. He is joining in with others' play ideas and always listens carefully to the grown-ups in Class 1. Keep it up Superstars!

This week our **Writer of the Week** is **Ollie Cr.** because of the independence he has demonstrated. Ollie did a fantastic job in our piece of focus writing this week. He could say what he wanted to write and was able to remember which letters he needed for the sounds he could hear.

Monday was a day of excitement, interest and new experiences in school. The day did not follow our typical routine and so was challenging in that sense also, I was so proud of all of your children, they joined in superbly and earned lots of housepoints!

The Reception children joined years 1 – 6 in the hall straight after register to learn a little about Columbus Day and the whole school then split into house teams. The houses are Bolton (Red), Fountains (Blue), Jervaulx (Yellow) and Whitby (Green). The teams then rotated around four different learning opportunities (two in the morning, two in the afternoon) related to the theme of 'Columbus and Explorers'. I'm sure your child told you about some of the things they got up to, but just in case you could ask them about paper boats, orienteering, sea biscuits and fruit kebabs or totem poles! The Nursery children also adapted to a new routine as they were busy in the nursery base all day, as well as the outdoor areas. They too have been exploring different fruits including kiwi, raspberries and melon and have been developing their vocabulary and overall communication and language skills by sharing their thoughts about the different tastes.

This week, our nursery learners have been mixing paints to make the colour **green**. I don't think I've seen such an array of shades of green as I did on the hands and papers of our colour curious children! The children have also been looking out for their shape of the week, **ovals**. This doesn't mean we only look for ovals, we of course practise our shape recognition by naming as many of the shapes we encounter as we can.

The Reception children have focused on new sounds **e**, **u** and **r** and have also been introduced to the first of our 'tricky words' **the** and **to**. 'Tricky Word' is a term we are using to explain those words which cannot be worked by sounding out. We did have a giggle trying to blend the individual sounds 't – h – e' but then practised by saying the letters and saying the word, singing the word, writing the word on the carpet with our finger and also with brushes and water. We have also worked together to blend and read the sounds in words to read out captions. We counted the words in the text by watching out for the spaces in between the groups of letters and then decoded one word at a time.

We have concentrated on the correct formation of **number 6**, remembering to start at the top and have also been thinking about **2D shapes**. The children are rather good at naming the common

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Marton-cum-Grafton CE VA Primary School,

Reas Lane, Marton-cum-Grafton, North Yorkshire, YO51 9QB

Tel: 01423 322355 • Email: admin@marton-cum-grafton.n-yorks.sch.uk

Website: www.marton-cum-grafton.n-yorks.sch.uk • Registered Charity No. 1047092

Headteacher: Mrs Marie-Louise Thirlaway BA Hons QTS NPQH



shapes and so we are trying to explain to our friends how we know that, e.g. the clock face is a circle, or the picture is a square.

Lots of the children have been busy in the **mud kitchen**. It's a great place for the children to fully immerse themselves in an experience. The stirring, scooping, mixing and snipping skills they use are fantastic for their physical development and the quantity of language being shared as the children play in pairs is incredibly rich. We find it a wonderful place to observe the children's learning and involvement and also to share a real laugh. It is certainly a rather messy opportunity and so we ask the children to get kitted up by putting on our waterproof jackets, trousers and their wellies. This way they can really immerse themselves in their play and not have any inhibitions from worry about getting too dirty or wet or needing to be changed into spare clothes.

A huge thank you for the donations of kitchenware we have received, they are a great addition and we really appreciate your generosity!

Reception Readers

As you know, we aim to change all reading books on **Mondays** and **Thursdays**, so please do make sure your child has theirs with them on those days. I will put the big blue reading folder box on our craft table so that your child can put their reading things inside ready for books to be changed.

Occasionally, things crop up that mean there isn't time within the school day to change some or all books, one example being Columbus Day! So, it's a good idea if you send their reading wallet in each day, just in case.

Secondly, we are delighted with how enthusiastic so many of our Reception learners are about their reading, whether it involves pictures, words, books or flash cards. With this in mind I will also be putting out a yellow box of '**extra readers**' on Tuesdays and Wednesdays which will have a selection of both wordless and early word books. If you feel your child could do with a book in addition to their 'official' reading book then please do take one from the yellow box and put inside their reading wallet. This book should also be noted in their reading record, so that we can do our best not to send home a duplicate, and then be returned to the yellow box when finished with for someone else to borrow. There is absolutely no pressure to take extra books and I really do encourage you to share your child's reading book with them (as simple as they may seem at this stage) more than once.

I appreciate this is a lot of type so please do ask if you're unsure and please don't feel overwhelmed, I won't be including reading notices in every newsletter!

Special Requests / notes

☺ Thank you for all the recycling bits and bobs you have been adding to our junk modelling tubs. Remember, if your child is one who is rather keen on creating in this way then do feel free to send models back into school to be adapted, deconstructed and reused. It only takes a couple of days to feel 'overrun' by these amazing creations when they start stacking up in your living room, hallway or on the kitchen surfaces!

☺ Thank you also for the hats, bags and fabrics we have received so far. It's wonderful seeing children taking on different roles. We do have a collection of branded 'fancy dress' costumes which the children love but it is also a lovely extension to have the open-ended resources so that play and stories are in the hands of the players' imaginations.

Dates for your diaries:

Monday 16th October and Wednesday 8th November: Reception Parent-Teacher dialogue meetings 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. Details of an informal 'drop-in' session, after half term, for **Nursery** parents to follow.

With best wishes for the weekend from

Mrs Williams and The Early Years Team