



MARTON-CUM-GRAFTON CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Class 1 News

20th October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have arrived at the end of our first half-term of the year and would like to say a really big well done to all of the children and a big thank you to all of you for supporting us in our aim to provide all of our little learners with a happy, safe and purposeful learning experience.

This week we were very pleased to present our **Class 1 Superstar** certificates to **Nolan** (Nursery) and **Esme** (Reception). Nolan joined our Class 1 Nursery learners in September and has settled in well and joins in well with lots of our activities, especially singing when he loves to suggest a rhyme and sings along with such enthusiasm! Esme has such a helpful attitude and she actually goes out of her way to show care and be a good friend to others, such a kind member of our class. Keep it up Nolan and Esme, well done!

This week **Jemima** has really impressed us because she spent all of her play and learn time, over two whole days, creating her own story book! Jemima made her own paper booklet, drew pictures of her character 'Tilly the Cat' and used lots of letter shapes including some sounds and our 'tricky word' 'I' to show her story. She told us a great tale as she turned through the pages. I'm sure you'll agree, a very deserving **'Writer of the Week'**.

In our directed learning times this week we have thought about things we can be **thankful** for, and some of the children decided to share their own prayer ideas, saying thank you for things ranging from mummy and daddy to plants and flowers and even chocolate fingers! We have also shared ideas about why we come to school and the children made a list of suggestions including to play, to learn, to be friends, to have fun, to find out about the world, and more besides.

The children have also spent time finding out about the Hindu festival, **Divali**. They have shared the story of Divali and have heard about ways in which this special time is celebrated. The children also had the opportunity to make their own little diva light pots out of clay. The clay divas have been air-drying in our classroom all week since last Friday, when the children made them with Mrs White. They were rather tempting to touch so some of our children had the great idea of making little notices to ask people to 'please leave to dry' and 'please do not touch'.

This week, as well as continuing in an exploration of **colour**, our **nursery learners** have been thinking about **shapes together**, using all of the 2d shapes that they have concentrated on this half-term to create pictures. They have been able to use the vocabulary they have learned regarding shape and have found out how some shapes can fit together. Do take a look at their fabulous 'shape robots',

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some of which are on the wall in our nursery base.

The Reception children have focused on new sounds **h, f** and **l**, and the additional digraphs (two letters making one sound) **ff** and **ll**. We have also continued in our learning of 'tricky words' and as well as practising **the** and **to**, we have added **l, no** and **go** to our repertoire. We have practised reading these within sentences when working as a whole class and the children even used their growing phonic knowledge to write a given sentence.

Reception maths learning has concentrated on combining two sets of objects to find the total. We have used dice, numbered fish, buttons and bears to help us in this. We have also had a focus on **number 7**.

Much of our learning has been led by the children's interest in the different **weather** conditions we have experienced this week. Monday was damp and foggy, with a strange tint to the daylight, the calm before the storm. So, instead of our usual wake up, shake up routine, we put on our wellies and coats and set off on a **welly walk** around the school grounds. We listened for sounds, collected leaves, waved our arms in the breeze, noticed the colours around us and made blowing sounds to mimic the wind we could hear. When a light shower came we took shelter under the tree, spotted a nest or two and also caught some raindrops in our hands, on our noses and even on our tongues. It was a refreshing start to our week.

We have also enjoyed some comparatively warm weather and used this chance to create obstacle courses and to enjoy water painting and mark-making outside.

When the stronger winds came the children were very excited to cut lengths of parcel ribbon which they ran and played with, watching them blow in the wind. Some children turned these into kites. Our interest in nature was later enhanced as the children were delighted to see the deserted bird's nest that Meg brought into share with us. We noticed the moss and twigs and, as we looked at the shape, the children thought it a perfect shape for keeping eggs cosy and safe.

Over this half-term the Reception children have spent some time on their Friday afternoons focusing on the RE theme 'Belonging' with Mrs White. They have talked about what it means to belong in a family, a class and in a school. They have also found out a bit about baptism. If your child has a photo from their own special day, be this a baptism, thanksgiving or other welcoming party, they are welcome to bring it in to show and share with the class when we return after half-term. If you do send in a photo please ensure it is named if it might be tricky to recognise the children from the photograph.

Home Learning

All children, Nursery and Reception, have been given a half-term challenge card. This list of mini 'challenges' or experiences is for your child to tick off if and when they complete them. This is not at all compulsory and it is not intended to be onerous but I hope that many of these little learning moments are things that are likely to crop up during the half-term break and reflect the range of learning that can be facilitated through day to day experiences and play. If your child does do any or all of the suggestions please do help them to put their name on the card and bring it back to school where they will be given a sticker for their efforts and the card will be added into their learning journey.

Dates for your Diaries

Thank you to all those Reception parents who came to parent-teacher appointments on Monday this week. The next set of appointments take place on Wednesday 8th November.

We wish you all a happy, restful and healthy half-term break and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 31st October.

Mrs Williams and The Early Years Team