



MARTON-CUM-GRAFTON CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Class 1 News

24th November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we were delighted to give our **Class 1 Superstar** certificates to **Brody** (Nursery) and **Zoe** (Reception). Brody can always be trusted to make good choices in his playing and learning and is a keen, kind and helpful little boy. Zoe always has a smile to share and is always keen to share her wonderful ideas and imagination, especially in her storytelling and roleplay.

Frederick was presented with our '**Writer of the Week**' certificate due to his real enthusiasm for writing in zigzag folded paper booklets this week. He has been looking at and using the letters and words around him and using these to write his ideas.

This week Reception children have continued to find out about owls. The children remembered that owls can't move their eyes because they are not balls but also that they have more bones in their necks than us and so they can turn their heads much further. We have also thought about the lovely feathers owls have and how these soft feathers help them to fly silently, The children have also returned to their interest in spiders and we have been keeping an eye out for creepy-crawlies.

'Twinkle, twinkle, little star' has been the **rhyme of the week** for our Nursery children and they have been busily cutting and decorating stars to support their physical development. Our Nursery focus **number of the week**, has been number 4. Some of the children have also shared an interest in the story of The Gruffalo and some have been really enjoying using the puppets to retell the story of The Three Billy Goat's Gruff.

The Reception children have continued to use number lines to find more and less and have also been counting forwards and backwards to practise number order. The focus number of the week for Reception has been **number 11**.

In Phonics the Reception children have been introduced to two new digraphs (two letters for one sound), these are **sh** as in ship or push, and **ch** as in chop or much. They have done a great job at identifying these digraphs in words and we have been using sound buttons to help us read words and sentences. We have also been practising our tricky words and other high frequency words.

One of the games we have played is 'Bingo!' This is the activity, concentrating on Phase 2 words, that has been sent home for **optional home learning**. There is no need to record anything but feel free to make a note in the blank square on the sheet to let me know how your child has found it and if there

ASPIRE • BELIEVE • ACHIEVE

were any words they needed help with, or indeed recognised really quickly. If your child manages to find them easily you could change the game by drawing a grid and challenging your child to spell and write the word that you read out.

Reception parents may have noticed that, rather than collecting their name cards or number lines, the children have been working in their little '**morning book**' when they have arrived each day. We are using this to help the children learn how to write some of our high frequency words and also to use their phonic skills to continue the caption. For example, on the screen we have displayed a picture of goldfish. The children copy the phrase 'it is a' into their book and then need to think what to write next. Some children wrote 'it is a fish', others had a go at 'it is a big fish and a little fish', and others wanted to write 'it is a fish with gold and silver on it'. Those who find this rather tricky at this point (we are all at different points in our phonics journey) finished the caption of with a picture. They have been doing a brilliant job!

We have all been learning our songs for the Nativity performance in December and, as a result, some children have been showing each other how to make snowflakes by folding and snipping paper. We have had fun exploring different weather conditions whilst playing outside and have enjoyed flying ribbons in our outdoor area.

Reminder

Please remember that **water bottles must be taken home** at the end of each week for a thorough wash, but ideally every day, and then returned to school filled with fresh water each day. The children take their water bottles into the hall to have with their lunch and we have noticed that some really are in need of a hot soapy wash to keep germs at bay. The water bottle boxes are put on the table outside the classroom at hometime so that you can collect your child's bottle.

We have also noticed that some children are not drinking much water outside of lunchtime. We are actively encouraging them to have a drink at a number of points through the day. Bottles should contain water, not juice, and the children are able to re-fill their bottles through the day if needed.

Many thanks for your cooperation with this.

Requests

We are always looking to develop our provision and the opportunities we can offer your children. We are currently on the look out for: **small/medium tyres, plastic crates** (such as milk crates/supermarket crates) and **empty cable reels**. If you are able to donate any such items to us for our outdoor area we would be very grateful indeed. Many thanks.

We are also in need of more 'junk' modelling resources so please do keep sending in your old cereal boxes, cleaned out plastic bottles and yoghurt pots, kitchen roll tubes etc. Thanks in advance.

Dates for your Diaries

Monday 11th / Tuesday 12th / Wednesday 13th December: Key Stage 1 Nativity Play, featuring EYFS (Nursery and Reception) – please let us know if you are having any difficulty sourcing a red top, black bottoms and / or white outfit for your child. Similarly, if you happen to have spares of any such items, that you are willing to lend to other children, please do let us know about those too.

Monday 18th December: Afternoon – Class 1 (Nursery and Reception) Stay, Play and Learn Together session – Christmas songs and crafts

Best wishes,

Mrs Williams and The Early Years Team