



MARTON-CUM-GRAFTON CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Class 1 News

1st December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well done to this week's **Class 1 Superstars. Dotty** (Nursery) has made real progress with her number recognition and also pencil control. She always has a go at the activities on offer and is a very cheerful member of Class 1. **Meg** (Reception) has been making great efforts in her learning. She has been starting each school day with a smile and her keenness to learn means that she is happy to have a go at our activities and challenges and approaches opportunities with an increasingly 'can do' attitude. Keep it up Dotty and Meg!

This week our '**Writer of the Week**' certificate was presented to Henny. Henny is a keen writer and not only did she have a good go at making her own 'owl facts' book in her independent play and learn time, Henny has been a very busy writer at home too. The writing children choose to do themselves, based on their own ideas, is the writing we are most able to use as evidence of progress and development. As practitioners we are required to take note of the spontaneous, independent and consistent efforts of our children, so it's great if you can encourage your child to bring in examples of any writing (whatever the stage they are at in their writing journey) that they may have done at home too, perhaps with a note to explain the context.

It can't be denied that one of the highlights of our week has come towards the end of it... **snow!** The children (and adults!) were of course very excited to suddenly notice snowflakes falling outside. Although we were about to go to lunch we quickly opened the doors and had fun catching snowflakes in our hands, on our tongues, on our noses and hair! It's definitely the season now for hats and gloves (all named please). In spite of the weather, the children had a fresh and fun time helping to plant bulbs which we look forward to seeing flower in the spring.

The week began with us all working hard to set up our outdoor role-play post office. It has been wonderful to see such enthusiastic envelope and letter writers and to hear mathematical language as children collect, weigh and sort the post. If you have any

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used (or unused!) envelopes that you'd be happy for the children to have please do send them in. If you cross out any personal details that may be written on the envelopes the children will have lots of fun reusing them.

December has arrived and we will now begin to incorporate Advent and Christmas preparations into the children's learning as they begin hearing the story of The First Christmas and thinking of the ways in which different families celebrate.

The Nursery **rhyme of the week** has been 'Five Little Snowmen' which we have combined with **number of the week**, number 5. The children have been tuning into sounds in the environment by remembering to 'stop and listen'.

The Reception children have been using numbers to 20 to count and sort and we have been matching quantities to the correct numeral. The children have also been investigating 3D shapes, trying to recognise properties and remember the correct names. The focus number of the week for Reception has been **number 12**, which we have talked about as being ten and two more.

Reception phonics learning has introduced two more new digraphs, **th** which we have practised saying with a voice as in 'that' and softly as in 'think', and **ng** as in 'bang'. The children have also learned another tricky word 'was', can they spot it in any stories you may share over the weekend?

I have not set any **home learning** this week as we have already asked you to help your child to wrap a box that they can carry when they are marching soldiers in the Class 2 play. The skills of folding paper, cutting the paper, tape and any ribbon are a great opportunity to support physical development and there is also chance to develop and consolidate mathematical understanding if you talk about how much paper, tape, ribbon etc you might need, e.g. "is the paper big enough to wrap the whole box?" 'Let's see if you can cut one long piece of tape and then two short pieces', 'do you think we should check the ribbon is long enough to wrap around the box? Will there be enough to tie a bow?' and so on.

One or two children have noticed we have not been using our beanstalk quite as often lately so I thought I would mention how it is being used in the classroom. The beanstalk is used to encourage positive behaviour and to give instant visual recognition when we see great learning attitudes and, as part of the EYFS, the Characteristics of Effective Learning. We often find that we refer to the beanstalk much more at the beginning of the school year and then again when we return to school after a half-term break while we help the children keep on track with understanding the expectations we have for learning and behaviour. Although we continue to use the beanstalk as each term goes on it is usually for real 'wow!' moments rather than, e.g. the super tidying up that may have been a step up earlier in the year. Reception children also start to collect more stickers as they take on more learning challenges and they will also move up each time they complete the sticker challenge card (10 stickers).

Reminder

Please remember that **water bottles must be taken home** at the end of each week for a thorough wash, but ideally every day.

Thank you for the Christmas play outfits that have already been brought into school. Please remember all **outfits should be in by Monday**.

Requests

Thank you to the families of Meg and Arabella and Jemima for the tyres they have offered to us!

As ever, we are 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. Thank you!

Dates for your Diaries

Monday 11th / Tuesday 12th / Wednesday 13th December: Key Stage 1 Nativity Play, featuring EYFS

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