



MARTON-CUM-GRAFTON CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Class 1 News

8th December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we were very pleased to give our **Class 1 Superstar** certificates to **Lizzie** (Nursery) and **Arabella** (Reception). Lizzie has had a lovely first term in Class 1 and has settled in very well. She is always willing to have a go and always has a smile to share. This week we have been encouraging all of the children in their 'positive learning attitudes'. At the beginning of the week I explained that we were keeping an extra eye out for children who are showing real concentration, being happy to have a go, listening to activity instructions and sharing their great ideas. Arabella has been showing a very positive approach to her learning, both in her independent learning when she has been busy and persevering with her self-initiated challenges and also in adult led opportunities. She has also been particularly kind and caring to others in our class. Thank you to two lovely members of Class 1.

I have been delighted with the enthusiasm for independent writing in Class 1 this week. Our '**Writer of the Week**' certificate was given to two children. Well done to Jemima for her wonderful determination to write us a list of Christmas songs and to Frederick for his ever-growing keenness to put his ideas into writing, both at home and school.

On Monday the Reception children worked together to start creating a 'Christmas House' in our role-play area. The bed is made and the table has frequently been set for Christmas dinner. How lovely to see children acting out their ideas about Christmas celebrations! They have been taking on the roles of family, friends, elves and Father Christmas. We have seen children writing lists of Christmas wishes and overheard our baby doll being re-named Jesus as children retold the Nativity. Our Nursery children have been enjoying their Christmas workshop as part of their role-play in the nursery base, as well as making the most of their time in the main Class 1 room. Our Christmas tree may often look rather bare when you come in to our class at the start of the day but it gets decorated numerous times throughout the day! – a great opportunity for physical development.

Reception have continued to focus some of their learning on the theme of owls and this week applied some of their learning in Literacy when we worked together to label an owl, pointing out the wings, eyes, claws and bill. Many of the children went on to label their own owl, some using our modelled write and others working independently.

This week our **rhyme of the week** in Nursery has been 'Jingle Bells', although our whole class has been learning a few Christmassy songs and rhymes. Our **number of the week** has been 6. We have been listening to, matching and using instruments to help us tune into and talk about sounds in our Phase 1 phonics learning.

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The Reception children have been developing their understanding of number pattern by finding, and sometimes writing, the missing numbers in counting patterns, counting forwards and backwards. They also continue to investigate 3D shapes. The focus number of the week for Reception has been **number 13**, which we have talked about as being ten and three more and which we have been looking out for as a numeral, counting out objects to match and making patterns with.

In our phonics learning the children have met two vowel digraphs. The first was **ai** as in rain and tail and for which we remember the Jolly Phonics rhyme "ai, what did you say?" The second was **ee** as in feel and sleep. The children were also introduced to their first trigraph (three letters for one sound), **igh**, as in bright. When we talk about di-/trigraphs it's particularly important that we refer to letter names so as to cause as little confusion for the children as possible. "Two letters to make one sound, the letter A and the letter I, together say ai" rather than e.g. "e (as in egg) and e say ee". (This is obviously not so easy to explain in text so please do ask if you're unsure!)

Our new tricky word is **my**. We have been spotting this word in our stories and in text around the classroom.

Thank you for the Christmas play outfits and 'parcels' that have been brought into school. We are looking forward to the performance and are hoping we won't keep the audience waiting for us to do our 'quick-change'! The children have been doing ever so well at joining the Class 2 children.

Reminder

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

Please could we remind everyone that home toys should not be brought into school. It can be rather upsetting for children if they go missing or get broken and it can sometimes be a challenge for staff if more than one child insists something is theirs! If your child's transition into the school is helped by bringing something in may we suggest they choose a favourite book (with name written inside) that we could share at a storytime instead. Many thanks.

Dates for your Diaries

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

Monday 18th December: 2 pm – Class 1 (Nursery and Reception) Stay, Play and Learn Together session – Christmas songs and crafts. You are very welcome to join us for this session which we will hold in the school hall. We will begin by sharing some of our favourite Christmas songs and there will then be opportunity to play and learn with your child as they have a go at some Christmas themed crafts. Please sign up in our entrance if you are planning to join us.

Tuesday 19th December: p.m. – Class 1 Christmas Party – the children will enjoy some party games and dancing, you are welcome to send in party clothes (in a named carrier bag please) which we will help the children to change into after lunch.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Williams and The Early Years Team