



MARTON-CUM-GRAFTON CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Class 1 News

22nd December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

A big well done to all of our children for all they have achieved in this first full term of the school year. It has certainly been full of fun, friendship, learning and laughter. Thank you for all of your support.

This week our Superstar certificates were presented to **Ollie** in our Reception Year and to **Lucy** in Nursery.

Ollie is always enthusiastic about learning and has been particularly involved in our Christmas activities. He has also been very busy and engaged in play and learn opportunities whilst continuing to follow our rules for learning. The changes to routine in the run up to Christmas can sometimes be a little unsettling for children but Lucy has happily had a go at all of the activities and has been sharing her helpful and smiling nature.

Our '**Writer of the Week**' certificate was given to Zoe, who has been busily drawing and writing letters to share her many fabulous stories. Well done Zoe, keep it up!

This week we have continued in our festive endeavours. The children have been having lots of fun singing Christmas songs, making Christmas creations, drawing and colouring seasonal pictures, sharing Christmas themed stories and acting out Christmas traditions in our role play areas.

A big thank you to those parents who were able to come along to our Christmas stay, play and learn together session on Monday afternoon. I'm sure you will agree the children were in fine voice and hope you enjoyed their little performance. With all hands on deck we managed a very productive routine and the children all seemed to have a great time, we hope you did too!

Don't worry if you were unable to join us, we will be planning another stay, play and learn together session for next term.

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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



Our festive fun of course continued on Tuesday with our Christmas party. The children were very excited to put on their party clothes and/or accessories and enjoyed some traditional party games before having their party snacks and then bopping away to music.

The focus of our Nursery phonics learning has been based on rhythm and rhyme, which has obviously fitted in very nicely with our Christmas songs and music as we have joined in with words and clapped along to different rhythms.

Reception children have, additionally, been practising all of their tricky words to date and we have reviewed, **ai, ee, igh, oa** and **oo**. The children have been blending these sounds in words in order to sort words and read captions. These particular letter:sound correspondences always seem to prove a bit more challenging to retain and remember and so we will return to them in the new year. We have also introduced new word '**you**'.

The Reception children have been practising 1 / 2 more and 1 / 2 less in their mathematics focus times. We have been counting on and counting back from various starting points between 0 and 20.

Last Friday the children of Class 1 were thrilled to have a special visit from Lucas' uncle. Nick very kindly visited our class, bringing with him his owls. We are very grateful to Mrs Rayner for helping to organise this for us, what a great opportunity to celebrate all of the learning children have been engaged in since we shared the book 'Owl Babies'!

Reception children should have brought home a template for high frequency word dice, as part of their home reading, which you may like to help them make and then use to practise word recognition. We have also given children an extra reading book for over the holidays.

Beyond this there is no home learning, though of course we would love to hear about the different ways in which the children have celebrated Christmas and the adventures they may have got up to when we return in January. Feel free to fill in our 'a note from home' slips or to email in a photo and short description. cw@marton-cum-grafton.n-yorks.sch.uk

Dates for your Diaries

Tuesday 9th January: - return to school

May we take this opportunity to thank families for the lovely cards and gifts you have given to our team at the end of this Autumn term. They are much appreciated and we wish you all a very happy Christmas indeed.

Have a very happy and healthy Christmas time, with best wishes from

Mrs Williams and The Early Years Team