

Hello and welcome back after the Christmas Break.

January 2026

We were really pleased with how well the children took part in our first Reception/Year One Nativity. There was some super singing and moving to get on and off the stage. We all enjoyed watching and listening to them and from the feedback we've heard, you did too.



Our topic for this half term is 'People Who Help Us'. The children will be thinking about the roles of a variety of people who help us within our community, such as the Emergency Services, Refuse and Recycling Collectors and Postal Workers. We have begun by setting up an area of our classroom with some books and 2D stick puppets of jobs in our community and asking the children if they have an idea of what they may like to be when they are older. We will also be asking the children to think about their own homes and people who help us e.g. Refuse and Recycling and Postal workers, times when they may need to visit someone to help them e.g. Doctor, Dentist, Optician. We will be welcoming some visitors into our classroom to explain about their role in the community as well as watching some short videos which will help to widen the children's understanding of the roles and responsibilities of people who help us. We have added hard hats, road signs and jackets to our Outdoor Area.

We still have a 'Home' role play and will also continue to offer the letters and post box – it was very popular in the run up to Christmas and we can now link to Postal Workers and their job!



### Library Books

This half term, your child will have the opportunity to borrow a book from our school library. A paper letter has been sent home this week, letting you know the group your child is in and the dates they will be able to change their books this term. Our day in Reception to change books is a **Monday**, providing their book is in school. The children will gradually begin to learn a little about how the books are grouped, the reason why they have coloured stickers and that there are story and information books in a library. Your child is likely to bring home a book that they cannot yet read, but chose it because they were interested in the cover. We have had children desperate to take home a dictionary for their book because they were fascinated by the number of words in it. If your child brings home a book like a dictionary, share it together, talking about why we don't read straight through, how it is useful and when it could be used.



Some parents have asked about which days we do PE so that they can make sure clothes the children wear are easy to take off. Please note that our PE days are a Tuesday and Wednesday. Thank you for labelling your children's clothes. We've had a few items of clothing go missing, but have been returned to their owners when the washing has been done and parents have realised it's not their child's t-shirt/jumper they are washing!





The snowflake border is in keeping with the wintry start to this term and colder weather. Please ensure your children come to school with warm clothes and coats and that they have a pair of wellies in school. Even without the snow and frost, the wind is cold when we are outside.



### Reading Books

Thank you to parents who are regularly hearing their child read and either putting the date and a tick, or a comment about the reading - it gives us another perspective of how the children are approaching their learning when they are not in the classroom. Establishing a routine for reading, around 5-10 minutes a day at this stage is suitable, and probably not at bedtime when they are tired and are winding down. Our emphasis in class, is practising the children's reading skills daily through planned phonics lessons as well as hearing them 'Partner Read' read within a group. If you would like some tips about how to support your child with their reading, please come and ask one of us.



### Spare Clothes

We would be grateful for any clothes you no longer need – for example, they may be too small for your child. T-shirts, trousers, skirts, pants and socks would be gratefully received. Please could we also remind you to return clothes if your child borrows them – thank you.

We hope that this will be a Happy and Healthy New Year for you all and thank you for your support.

Please come and talk to us after school with any questions, concerns or things you want to celebrate about your child. You can also email the school office [office@stokeprior.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@stokeprior.worcs.sch.uk) and a message will be passed to us.

[Reception Long Term Plan](#)