

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our second Early Years Newsletter of the Autumn Term. We have been so incredibly proud of your children and the way they have settled into life in Reception Class. New rules and routines have been established and we have enjoyed getting to know our new cohort.

Last half term we staggered the start of our phonics, maths and early writing sessions which we will continue to build on during this half term. We also spent time learning more about each other as well as learning about the festival of Harvest and taking part in our church service at St. Michaels. We were delighted with the way the children walked to and from church and their participation in the service.

We hope that you are finding the yellow phonics books useful, in which we share the graphemes that have been taught to the children so far.



On the sheet we sent home before half term, you will have seen which graphemes your child was able to recall and those that they found difficult on the day. Please spend some time when you are able to, helping your child to recall the trickier ones. This will help them with their reading, which is an incredibly tricky skill to master, but such an important one.

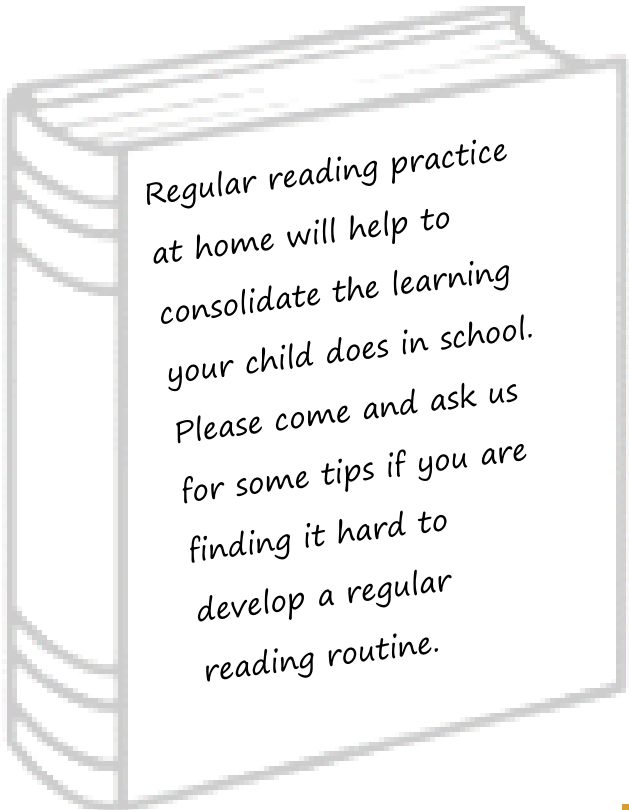
The children are busy during the school day and may be tired and therefore reluctant to share what they've been doing. We use the term 'Explore and Discover' to refer to the children's own choosing and exploration time. It is during this time that they can spend time inside or outside following their own interests. As adults, we spend this time in a variety of ways. Sometimes we observe, looking to see what is of interest to the children, we may join in their play, potentially developing vocabulary, or we might extend and develop ideas and learning.

This half term, our theme is 'Let's Celebrate', where we'll be discovering festivals that involve the use of light. We will share with the children that people may have different beliefs to them and may celebrate special times in different ways. Our half term will conclude with our Reception and Year One Nativity in school and whole school Christingle Service at church.



Through our work related to Harvest we began to look at seasonal change. We will continue to watch the trees in our school grounds and ask you too, to talk about trees in and around your gardens and local parks as we move towards the season of winter. Singing will remain a key part of our time together and imaginative play will continue to be encouraged, building on what the children already know and what we learn in the coming weeks. We will continue to develop fine motor skills through focused adult directed activities and those children choose themselves.

During the first half term, we began introducing the process of getting changed for PE. First the children changed only into their trainers or pumps. After a few sessions, we then asked them to change into shorts, jogging bottoms or leggings. This half term we will introduce changing into their PE t-shirts too. This gradual process has let the children practise changing themselves, with us giving support only when they've had a go themselves first. If they don't already, please encourage your child to dress and undress themselves –this could be at the weekend when there's more time, to begin with. We usually have PE on a Tuesday and Wednesday.



Regular reading practice at home will help to consolidate the learning your child does in school. Please come and ask us for some tips if you are finding it hard to develop a regular reading routine.



Reception & Year One
Christmas Nativity in school
Tuesday 9th December (am)
&
Thursday 11th December (pm)

Christingle Service at church
Thursday 17th December (am)



Look out for further information and diary dates in the school newsletter.

As the weather becomes colder and wetter, children will need a waterproof coat if they are going outside.

If you are able to provide a pair of named wellies that can stay in school, it means your child can enjoy outdoor learning in all weather.

Please ensure everything is named, even if the item is quite unique. If something is lost, it can be returned much quicker when it is named.



Our 'Creation Station' is now up and running as some parents and carers may have realised when their child brought home an assembled group of boxes held together with masking tape! In this area of the classroom, children are developing lots of skills and techniques, such as drawing, ,

using scissors and developing hand/eye coordination. Problem-solving skills are also developed, for example 'How do I attach two objects together?' and resilience 'I cut my box in the wrong place ...How can I fix it, or adapt the design?' Creating helps to develop imagination and build self-confidence, as children take pride in their constructions. We prioritise the process of *thinking* and *creating* rather than the end product. In practice this means it will be rare to see 30 replicas of the same thing coming out at the end of the day. We will teach skills, techniques and give examples, but then let the children experiment in their own way.

We would be grateful for the occasional empty cereal box or kitchen roll tube that your child can bring into school on any day. **We are unable to use** toilet roll tubes or egg boxes.



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 and a message will be passed to us.

Reception Long Term Plan

