

## Reception Cherry Class Newsletter Autumn term

Dear parent/carer,

We hope you had an enjoyable and restful half term holiday. This half term will be extremely busy but very exciting with many new learning experiences. Here are a few things you may like to know about our learning and key dates/events.

### Cold weather:

Please be aware, children are provided opportunities to learn both inside and outside throughout the day. Therefore, as the weather gets colder please ensure children have warm, waterproof coats labelled with their name.

### P.E.

We will have our physical education lessons on **Mondays**. Please ensure that your child/children have the following kit: Black tracksuit bottoms, a plain white t-shirt, black trainers or plimsolls all clearly marked with their name. These can be kept in a bag on their peg.

### Reading records

The children will take home a story book of their choosing and a reading book linked to the phonics teaching each week to provide valuable opportunities for you to read together at home. These will be changed once a week. Parents are asked to please make a note in their reading records every time they read at home. Please note that children are required to have their book bag with their reading record and book inside every day.

### WOW Cards

We will be continuing to send home superhero WOW cards. These are for you to complete and return to class anytime your child does something to make you say wow, for example sleeping in their own bed, helping at home, counting to 100 or reading their book independently. Children will have the opportunity to share their wow cards with the class to celebrate their achievement. These will also contribute to the children's individual learning journal where we record your child's development and progress.

### Reading Together Friday Mornings

Every Friday morning from 9.00 to 9.20 parents/carers are invited to come and read with us in the class. This is a lovely opportunity to share some of the books we have been looking at in class and see your child enjoy themselves at school.

### Black History Month

As you know, the school has been participating in a variety of activities related to 'Black History Month'. There will be a whole school assembly on Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> of November at 9.30 which parents/carers are invited to attend.

### Anti-bullying week

From the 12<sup>th</sup> of November it will be anti-bullying week, with this years theme being 'choose respect'. The week will begin with 'odd socks day' on Monday and children will be able to wear odd socks to school as part of the campaign to raise awareness of bullying. Children will also be involved in a variety of activities related to this throughout the week. In addition, the school will be selling anti-bullying wristbands.

### **Nunhead library visit**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November we will be visiting Nunhead library. On this day we will require parent volunteers to walk with the class to and from the library and supervise while there.

### **Whole school nativity**

The whole school nativity will be held at St Catherine's church on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December at 2.00. Parents/carers are invited to attend.

### **Christmas dinner**

Christmas dinner will take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December.

### **PTA Christmas fair**

This will take place on Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> of December from 3.30- 5.30, more details to follow.

### **Winter party**

At the end of term we will have an end of term winter party and children will be able to wear their own festive/Christmas jumper. This will take place on Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of December.

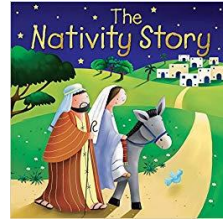
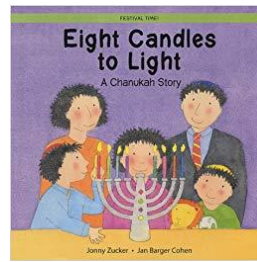
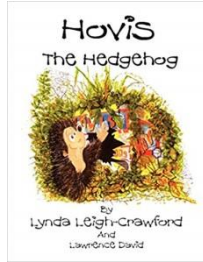
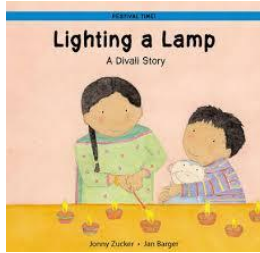
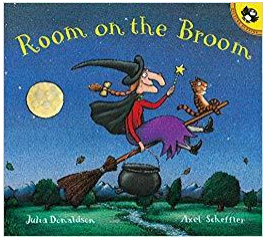
### **Outdoor learning**

We are developing our outdoor provision in order to ensure it promotes valuable learning opportunities for children. Outdoor learning allows children to develop their physical skills confidence, relationships, creativity, problem solving and understanding of the world around them. In order to do this we are asking parents for any unwanted items from home that we are able to recycle and put to good use! These include: metal cooking equipment (saucepans, frying pans, baking trays and utensils) for our nature kitchen, any old wellington boots your child has outgrown, and any natural resources you may find/collect (pinecones, conkers, twigs, shells, stones). If you have any other items you think we may use please ask!

**Please check the notice board in the reception playground for information and key dates**

**Term will finish on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of December at 2pm and school will resume on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 8.55 am.**

## Our Learning This Term



This term our topic is 'Let's celebrate!' in which the children will learn about a variety of cultural and religious celebrations including: Halloween, bonfire night, Remembrance Day, Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas. Our classroom role play area has been turned into a 'post office' for the children to have a go at writing cards, invitations and letters as well as weighing parcels and using money.

Within our topic we will be covering the 7 areas of the Early Years Curriculum as outlined below.

**Prime Areas:** these underpin development in all areas.

### Personal, Social and Emotional

This includes: Making relationships, Self-confidence and self-awareness, managing feelings and behaviour.

This term we will be continuing to develop friendships, negotiating and turn taking. Children will have opportunities to talk about special times for themselves and their families.

### Physical Development

This includes: Moving and handling, health and self-care.

We will be using beanbags and balls to develop our throwing, catching and kicking skills. We will also be developing our letter formation and handwriting.

### Communication and Language

This includes: Listening and attention, understanding and speaking.

Children will be listening to a variety of topic related stories and have opportunities to contribute to class discussions.

**Specific areas:** these are essential skills and knowledge for children to participate successfully in society.

### Literacy

This includes: Reading, and writing (phonics is included alongside both these areas).

We will be listening to a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts about celebrations. The children will be writing facts we have learnt as well as stories and letters.

### Mathematics

Includes: Number and shape, space and measure.

We will be focussing on counting objects accurately, comparing amounts and combining groups of objects. The children will also be learning to name and describe shapes, create repeating patterns and compare objects by weight, size and length.

### Understanding the World

This includes: Understanding about people and communities, the world and technology.

Through our 'celebrations' topic we will be sharing special times and developing an understanding

of similarities and differences between ourselves and our friends/families.

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

This includes: Exploring and using media and materials, Music, singing and dance, drama and being imaginative.

We will be creating firework paintings, Mehndi hand patterns and Christmas cards. The children will listen to and sing a variety of songs and dances as well as taking part in their weekly music sessions.

### **Home learning**

If you have any objects, photographs or books linked to any of our celebrations please bring them in for the children to share with their classmates and teachers. These will be returned.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments please arrange to speak to Miss Furlong.

Thank you

Miss Furlong (class teacher), Miss Linton (learning support assistant) and Miss Elia (Early years practitioner)