

Newsletter - 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019

### Our News

Thank you for all of the donations of chocolate for the Christmas fair next week, as well as glass jars and crayons. We have plenty now to keep us very busy in preparation for the Christmas fair!

Thank you to the Duckling parents who attended the meeting this week about physical development. For those of you unable to attend we have put some tips for helping with physical development on the Ducklings' class page of the school website. We will hold another meeting in the new year about mathematics.

We are very pleased to have Miss Christopherson back working with us. She is a teaching student from Edge Hill University and will be working with us all on her next placement until February.



### STARS OF THE WEEK



Harry Taylor for working really hard to achieve his next steps of learning and Lola Webb for showing incredible kindness to others.

### Our Learning

We have come to the end of our People Who Help Us topic and have been very lucky to have more people to come and talk to us about their special jobs. We have had a visit from a train driver, another police officer, a student nurse and a pathology nurse, a music teacher, Mr Luty the school caretaker, Mrs Deaville in the school office and the school cook. The children have been excellent at listening and are really good at thinking of questions to ask our visitors.

We have enjoyed lots of role-play during this topic in our class police station, our hospital and this week our hair dressing salon.

We have explored doing the job of a recycling collector and helping to sort the recycling according to the materials they are made from.

For our art days we enjoyed reading a lovely story called 'The Dot' about a little girl who doesn't believe that she can be an artist, until her teacher just tells her to start by making a single mark. The children then used this idea to explore colours with different tools to make their own dot pictures.

### Little Chicks

We have been...

- Sponge printing the letters in their names
- Counting out the correct number of objects and identifying which group has more or less
- Looking at what happens when we add more to a group or take some away
- Drawing what they would like to be when they grow up

### Ducklings

We have been...

- Writing facts about people who help us and drawing and writing about what job they would like to be when they grow up
- Creating and completing repeating patterns all around us using all different kinds of resources
- Exploring 1 more and 1 less than a given number by counting on or back, using a number line or by simply counting a group of actual objects and taking 1 away or adding 1 more to help
- Practising our scissor cutting skills

- Applying our phonics skills to be able read words and simple sentences independently
- Learning to read the tricky words I, the, no, go, to and into.



## **Our Learning**

Over the remaining weeks we will be learning all about Christmas and joining in with the season's celebrations. Next week we will be continuing to practise our nativity play ready for our dress rehearsal and then our performances the following week. Next week we will be focusing on the nativity story and why Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. We will be retelling and ordering the events in the nativity story, as well as dressing up in nativity costumes to act it out! We will be busy making our crafts ready for the Christmas fair and busy creating our own Christmas cards and decorations. The following week we will be finding out about how Christmas is celebrated in our homes and around the world. We will talk about how different families have different traditions. Our home corner and role play areas will be decorated and turned into Christmas at home and a Santa's Grotto. We will also be creating our own Bethlehem stable role play area.

Little Chicks will be looking for different shapes around them and learning the Jolly Phonics songs for the letters h and i.

The Ducklings will be completing the phase of phonics that we have been currently learning and will be recapping over all of the sounds that we have learnt so far, as well as the tricky words and assessing the children to find out what they know and what they need to keep practising. As our first term at school draws to an end, the Ducklings' teachers will also be finding out what the children have learnt and remembered so far in terms of their reading, writing and mathematics by completing little assessment activities with them,



## **Reminders**

### **BLOG**

Visit the school website and have a look at our class blog with your child. This is another way for them to share with you what they have been learning at school. They can chat to you about what they have been doing in the rainbow challenges at school. You could even write and leave a comment together!

### **Reading**

As well as reading regularly (every night if possible!) please practise the letter and sound flashcards to help your child to retain their phonics learning. Don't forget to keep practising the tricky words too!

A number of children have outstanding reading books left at home. Please can any outstanding reading books be returned to school and it is also very important for reading records to be brought to school each day. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Nativity Costumes and Lines**

Please can all costumes for the nativity be in school, in a named carrier bag, by **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at the latest** as we will be performing on this day for the rest of the school in our dress rehearsal.

You can also send in any costumes as soon as you have them ready and we can keep them in school. Please put all costumes in a **named** carrier bag. Some costumes may need other clothing to wear underneath, such as dark blue or black tops and trousers/tights for the stars and white tops and leggings, tights or trousers for the angels. Please put these in their named bag too.

If you are unsure or have any further questions, please just pop in and speak to one of us. Many thanks!

Please could all children with a speaking part practise the lines that they have to learn? They are stuck in their reading journals that they bring home.

## Nativity Stories

We will be reading lots of different versions of the Nativity story over the next few weeks. Please send in any versions that you may have at home for us to share in school. We promise to look after them and will return them.

## Toys

Please can children not bring in toys from home. We do not want them getting lost or broken.

## Little Chicks and 2020/21 School Applications

Please remember to apply for your child's school place online at [www.schooladmissions.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.schooladmissions.lancashire.gov.uk) by 15<sup>th</sup> January. You still need to apply, even if you have a brother or sister already at the school.

## Spare Clothes and Names in Clothes

As the weather gets wetter and colder, please can the children be prepared by making sure that they bring a warm coat, hat and gloves each day. Also the children love to learn outdoors even when it is wet. Please send them in with a spare change of socks and tights just in case!

It is essential that all items of clothing are clearly named, including coats, hats, gloves and scarves!

## Large Cardboard Boxes

Please send in any large sheets of cardboard or large cardboard boxes for us to use to make out Bethlehem stable out of.

## Little Chicks and Ducklings Christmas Party

We are going to have a Christmas party on the afternoon of Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December from 1.30-3pm. It is also Christmas Jumper Day and hopefully Santa will be visiting too, so will be a fun-filled day!

If your child is in Little Chicks and does not normally attend the Thursday afternoon session they are very welcome to join us for the party. Please let Mrs Stock or Mrs Richardson know in advance.

## Christmas in our Home Corner

Donations of Christmas themed napkins, crackers, paper plates and cups would be most welcome. It would be lovely if each child could bring in a shop bought or home-made decoration for our class Christmas tree. Also, Santa hats for our Santa's Workshop!

We will also be busy wrapping in our Santa's Workshop, so any donations of unwanted wrapping paper would be extremely welcome.

Once again...many thanks!

## Christmas cards

Why not help the environment and instead of giving all of your friends a Christmas card, just make and write in one big one for all of the class? Have fun creating!!!

## Fairy Cake Friday- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December

It will be Ducklings and Little Chicks turn to bring in fairy cakes to sell to our classes and other classes in school as a treat and to help raise money for our chosen school charities this year. Please send any homemade or shop bought cakes in on the morning of this day. Each cake will cost 20p to buy. Children can keep their money in the zip pocket of their school book bags and will be limited to buying one cake each. We have a number of children in our setting with allergies so donations of dairy free and egg free cakes would be lovely too. Please label your cakes if they are free from these to make it easier for us. Many thanks.

## How can you help at home?

### Little Chicks

Read some different nativity stories together

Practise counting objects around the home and look for different shapes around the home

Listen out for objects around the home that begin with the h and i sounds

### Ducklings

#### Talk for Mathematics

Practise counting collections of objects up to 20 accurately

Practise writing numbers to 20 in different ways - outside with chalk on the path, with a stick in the sand or mud, in a tray of rice or flour!

Look at numbers on doors. Which number would be 1 more or 1 less?

Practising counting forwards and backwards from different numbers

Count down the days until Christmas!

[www.ictgames.com/numeracy](http://www.ictgames.com/numeracy)

[www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk)

### **Talk for Reading and Writing**

Find objects when you are at home and out and about that start with the sounds b, f and l.

Look out for words that have a double letter in like ff, ss or ll, such as miss or will

Practise writing these letters in sand or with chalk

Look for these letters in books at home.

Practise reading and writing the phase 2 'tricky' words - I, go, no, to, the and into. Look for these tricky words in your reading books and books at home

Watch Geraldine the Giraffe (+ the letter/sound) - phonics clips and watch and sing the Jolly Phonics songs on YouTube

Write the message in your Christmas cards, using your cursive handwriting!

Write your own nativity story books

[www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk)

[www.ictgames.com/literacy](http://www.ictgames.com/literacy)

[www.phonicsbloom.co.uk](http://www.phonicsbloom.co.uk)

[www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)

### **Talk for topic**

Talk about gifts and giving. Think about what we can give that isn't an object; love, kindness, time.

Talk about how you celebrate Christmas in your home, bring in some photographs for our home corner of you and your family celebrating Christmas.

### **Dates for your diary:**

Friday 29th November ~ PTFA Pamper Night for adults only.

Thursday 5th December ~ Christmas Market 15:30-17:00

Week Beginning the 9th December ~

9th December at 14:30 ~ Little Chicks and Ducklings 1st performance

10th December at 09:30 ~ Little Chicks and Ducklings 2nd performance

10th December at 14:30 ~ Little Chicks and Ducklings 3rd performance

Wednesday 11th December 13:30-14:30 Jingle Jog at Rossall for KS2 children.

Sunday 15th December ~ Live Nativity with the Poulton Community from 14:00 within St Chad's School grounds.

Please come and join in with this community festive activity ~ Shepherds, Angels and Kings are most welcome.

(dressing up is essential)

Monday 16th December ~ Open afternoon for classes to share their Fantastic Finish to their learning. 14:30 - 15:30

Wednesday 18th December ~ Christmas Lunch in school. All children are welcome to enjoy a school dinner. Please let the office know if you wish your child to have a cooked meal on this date if normally they have a packed lunch.

Wednesday 18th December ~ Candlelit Carol Service at Rossall Chapel. All families are welcome. 18:00- 19:30

Thursday 19th December ~ Christmas Jumper Day with hopefully a very special visitor coming to school

Friday 20th December ~ finish for the Christmas Holidays at 15:30.

Our next newsletter will be on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December and will give details about all the fun activities we have planned for the next two weeks.

Any questions please don't hesitate to ring, email or come and see us.

Staff email:

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