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Newsletter

### What we have been up to:

We have been learning about festivals and celebrations including, Bonfire night celebrations, Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas. We have been using the wildlife garden to explore our natural environment and the world around us. We have been collecting natural objects and using them to create nature crowns. We have been enjoying stories and non-fiction texts to learn more about festivals and celebrations. The children worked really hard to learn songs and a story for the Christmas performance and performed wonderfully.

**English** - We will be using a range of fiction / non-fiction texts and investigating instructions and narrative texts. We will be creating text maps and using actions to help us learn texts and recall them. We will be using our phonic knowledge to write labels and captions. We will be continuing to have daily phonics sessions following the whole school SoundsWrite scheme. We will be reading and spelling the words and sentences from Units 7-11 as well as recapping units 3-7. We will start to read and write longer words consisting of four and five sounds.

**How can I help at home?** Listen to your child read at home at least five times a week, visit a local library. Share books and stories.

**Maths** - In maths, we will be introducing zero, comparing numbers to 5 and investigating composition of 4 and 5. We will be comparing mass and capacity. We will be investigating 6,7 and 8. We will be making pairs and combining two groups. We will be learning about length and height, time. We will be sharing lots of stories linked to our mathematical developments for example, None The Number Oliver Jeffers, Zero is the Leaves on the Tree Betsy Franco, A Squash and a Squeeze Julia Donaldson, Room On The Broom Julia Donaldson, I Spy Numbers Jean Marzello . Who Sank the Boat? Pamela Aleen.

**How can I help at home?** Daily Numbots, board games, noticing maths out and about, door numbers, shapes, subitising.

**Understanding the world** - Our overarching topic this half term is People Who Help Us. The children will know that there are people in our community that help to keep us safe. We will learn that people do a variety of jobs and will compare elements of these jobs to jobs in the past.. We will know what a selection of jobs from within the community entail. We will learn who helps keep us safe and healthy within our community and will know how to seek help and who to seek help from. We will be inviting in members of our community to talk about their roles so if you would like to talk to the children about something you do please arrange with a member of the Reception team.

**How can I help at home?** Share books and stories based around our topic.



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### Expressive Arts, Being Imaginative -

In Expressive Arts, we will be using the BBC 10 pieces resources to support learning around Mars From The Planets (Gustav Holt). We will be investigating blossom painting. We will be creating using paint, learning about observational drawing and 3d sculpture. We will be using drama conventions, music, movement and role play.

***How can I help at home?*** Enjoy singing and moving to music.

### Communication & Language -

We will be using language to ask how and why questions. We will be retelling a story with story language, remembering key points from a story and asking questions to find out more and to check understanding. We will be describing events, listening to and talking about stories to build familiarity and understanding. We will be learning rhymes, poems and songs, and talking about similarities and differences.

***How can I help at home?*** Support children to retell stories you have shared together at home.

### Personal, Social & Emotional Development -

In Jigsaw, we will be looking at Dreams and Goals We will be learning about staying motivated when doing something challenging. Keeping trying even when it is difficult. Working well with a partner or in a group. Having a positive attitude. Helping others to achieve their goals.

***How can I help at home?*** Encourage your child to keep trying when things get difficult for example if playing board games or completing something tricky.

### Physical Development -

Over the first half of the Spring Term, we will be exploring Dance through the topic of 'Everyday Life' and Gymnastics through the topic of 'Animals and Their Habitats'. Children will use their bodies to develop movements, shapes, balances and jumps as well as rocking and rolling. They will be given opportunities to copy, repeat and remember actions and will be introduced to counting in order to keep time with music. Children will also be able to perform to their peers and to provide basic feedback.

***How can I help at home?*** Encourage children to explore different movements. Can they move like different animals? Can they move in a spiky way? A wobbly way? A soft way?

### Reminders / Key Dates:

4th January - Return to school

2nd February - Number Day

6th February - Children's mental health week

10th February - Break Up for Half Term

### Sharing Our Learning

We have launched new social media channels to help share the fantastic learning that is going on in our year group.

We'd love you to follow us and see what we've been up to:

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)