



# Curriculum Newsletter

Bramham Shadwell Federation  
Class R November - December 2018



All our learning in class this half term will be focused around the question:  
**Keeping Safe**

## Communication, Language and Literacy

### Mark making:

- All children will be learning Phase 2 and 3 sounds and will begin to practise writing letters and simple words. They will practise this in the areas of provision and during fun focused activities.
- All children will continue to participate in handwriting sessions with a focus on **accurate letter formation**. This may be in shaving foam, sand, paint or handwriting books.

### Literacy:

- We will begin this half term with a focus on 'Stars', using our Christmas play 'Shine, Star, Shine' as our focus text. The children will be retelling the story through role-play, song and dance. There will be lots of opportunity for the class to discuss the setting, characters, problem and the resolution.
- We will then focus on 'The Jolly Christmas Postman'. The children will also receive letters from the Christmas Elf and have the opportunity to reply to them by using their phonic knowledge. They will also be writing Christmas lists, cards and letters to Santa.

**As always we will follow children's interests, so keep an eye on the class website for any new topics we may launch!**

## Mathematical Development

### Number Focus:

- This half term we will continue to develop the children's understanding of numbers and counting through specifically focussing on one number at a time. This half term we will be exploring the numbers 3,4 and 5.
- We will focus on patterns within the numbers using a range of resources as it is proven that an understanding of pattern is key for children's mathematical development.
- We will practise counting irregular groups of objects and recognising numbers to 5.
- Children will explore how to solve mathematical problems involving more and less, as well as calculating which two numbers make a given total using objects/ numicon plates.
- Doubling, halving and sharing will also be introduced.
- Shape will be taught alongside number. The children will be encouraged to describe and name 2D and 3D shapes in everyday objects. For example, a rectangle has two long sides and two short sides: 2 and 2 makes 4. What happens if you cut a square in half? How many sides do two squares have? How could you find out?

### How can I help / information for helping





Practise writing letters using the correct starting point and formation.  
Ask your child to write all the sounds they can hear in a word. Can they hear the initial sound?  
Discuss vocabulary with your child when reading stories at night time.

### Practise accurate letter formation

If your child is writing at home, please encourage them to start their letters in the correct place.



### How can I help / information for Helping

Spot numbers and shapes with your child in your local environment.

Phonics	Personal, Social & Emotional Development	Physical Development
<p><b>Focus is:</b> Phase 2 and 3</p> <p>This half term the children will consolidate their knowledge of Phase 2 sounds. They will continue to blend and segment simple VC (it, on) and CVC (cat, dog) words when reading and writing words. The children will begin to learn the phase 3 sounds below.</p>  <p><b>Tricky words:</b> These are our new tricky words.</p>  <p>We will be learning to spell these tricky words.</p> 	<p><b>Focus is:</b> Getting to know my key worker.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children will regularly participate in circle time with their key worker group to discuss current issues, play games and to take turns listening to one another.</li> <li>We will focus with the children on staying safe through our topic on 'Keeping safe'.</li> <li>The children will think about being safe on the darker nights.</li> </ul> 	<p><b>Focus is:</b> Gymnastics</p> <p><b>Skills / knowledge to be developed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The children will be creating shapes using their bodies.</li> <li>They will be moving safely on and around apparatus.</li> <li>The children will learn to perform the tuck, straddle and pike positions on apparatus or mats.</li> </ul> <p>We will provide exciting <b>fine motor</b> activities within the classroom for the children to access. These will help the children improve their pencil control.</p> <p>PE will be on a <b>Tuesday</b> this half term.</p> <p>This term the children will be practising getting ready for outdoor play independently. Please help them to learn how to zip up their coat and put on their gloves.</p>
<p><b>How can I help / information for Helping</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify new phase 3 sounds when out and about.</li> <li>Sing the Jolly Phonics songs and practise the actions at home (These can be found on YouTube or can be purchased).</li> <li>Practice recognition of these tricky words.</li> <li>Practice writing the first 6 tricky words.</li> </ul>	<p><b>How can I help / information for Helping</b></p> <p>If you have any concerns about your child, please let us know.</p>	<p><b>How can I help / information for Helping</b></p> <p>Please ensure that your child has their <b>named indoor PE kit including pumps</b> with them every day which can be taken home on a Friday to wash if necessary, as additional lessons may take place on alternative days.</p> <p>Please continue to encourage your child to get dressed</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep working on blending and segmenting simple words at home e.g. c-a-t...cat.</li> </ul>		by themselves each morning, as this will help support them to get changed for P.E.
--	--	--

Expressive Arts and Design	Understanding the World
<p><b>Focus is:</b> Festivals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This term the children will have the opportunity to engage in lots of imaginative play. The home corner is going to be turned into a Grotto and possibly other role-play areas, depending on the children's interests.</li> <li>Paints, writing materials and construction equipment are available every day and will continue to be enhanced during specific weeks.</li> <li>Key skills will be targeted such as paint mixing, cutting and split pins to encourage independence later in the year.</li> <li>The children will participate in a singing and movement lesson each week with Mrs Crowley. This will take place each Friday afternoon.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Focus is:</b> Festivals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will focus on light and dark linking in to our 'Keeping safe' topic.</li> <li>Initially we will look at Bonfire night and will learn a safety song.</li> <li>We will look at different festivals including Diwali, Hanukah and Christmas and we will think about how people celebrate these festivals.</li> <li>Children will be faced with the problem of a star that no longer shines and asked to think of different ways to solve this problem.</li> <li>We will be writing letters to Santa and going to the local post box to send them.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How can I help / information for Helping</b> Please bring in <b>small</b> boxes, lids and containers for the children to use in our workshop area.</p>	<p><b>How can I help / information for Helping</b> Talk to your children about staying safe especially focusing on road safety in the winter months.</p>

Homework	Any Other Information / Dates for the Diary
<p><b>Reading</b> Books are sent home on a Tuesday and Friday night. Please make sure your child's book is in school every day and that you fill out the Monkey Reading Record book each time you hear your child read.</p> <p><b>Homework</b> Please continue to practice your child's sound book and tricky word recognition with them.</p> <p><b>Please encourage your children to discuss their homework at home in order that they develop the skills of explanation and reasoning.</b></p>	<p><b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b> – 7:00-9:30pm PTA Christmas Wreath Making Event.</p> <p><b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b> – 2.00pm Christmas Production</p> <p><b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>- 9.30am Christmas Production</p> <p><b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>- Christmas Jumper Day</p> <p><b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b> –9.15am Carol concert for parents of classes 2, 4 and 6, 1.30pm Class R and KS1 Christmas party</p> <p><b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b> – 2.00pm Carol Concert for parents of classes R, 1, 3 and 5</p> <p><b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>- Last day of school</p> <p><b><i>This term please can you donate a box of tissues to Reception and bring in a family photo for our display board.</i></b></p> <p>We encourage you to follow our school Twitter account @BramhamShadwell. We regularly post updates and photographs of what your children are learning in class alongside other important school information, reminders and updates.</p> <div style="text-align: right;">   </div>

Thank you for all your support, we hope you have enjoyed following your child's progress on tapestry so far. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us or make an appointment at the office to arrange a meeting after school.

Mrs Williamson and Mrs Pelc