

Dear Families,

On Friday last week we all met Miss Grantham, who has now spent three days over two weeks in the classroom getting to know our routines and the children. As I mentioned in the last update Miss Grantham is joining us from Leeds Trinity University for some of her teacher training. She has another three individual days next week in class and then I'm looking forward to her starting her main experience block from the 14th October right up until Christmas.

We began our Phase Two phonics lessons on Monday so the children have been practising the first set of GPC (Grapheme, Phoneme Correspondence), which are 's', 'a', 't' and 'p'. The homework folders and phonics books came home with each of these GPC stuck in on Monday and I wanted to thank you so much for helping the children with their homework this week. They have been excited to show me their work each morning when I award the team points for doing their homework. They are all doing well with the first four GPC and I have put a mini book called 'Pat' along with the dinner menu for next week in the children's homework folders or in their actual homework books. When you look at the mini book together, see if the children can remember each GPC in the words and support them to blend those together by repeating the sounds softly. You can of course help them as much as is required to achieve success (it might take a while for some to catch on).

We completed Block 1 'Match Sort and Compare' in our White Rose Maths lessons and started a new block this week called, 'Talk about Measure and Patterns'. This week we were investigating weight and mass through practical activities and our PP lessons and we will continue this theme next week.

In RE with Mrs Minshull the children thought about why we give thanks to God for harvest and this morning we watched a short PowerPoint about the Jewish new year festival of Rosh Hashanah, which is also being celebrated at the moment.

We rehearsed our story of the Little Red Hen again through the week and performed it for the whole school in the harvest celebration this afternoon. As well as the story helping us remember how corn is grown we watched a short video and also made our own corn bread, which the children brought home on Thursday. Before we combined the ingredients, all the children had chance to use their senses (apart from taste) to investigate each one. I hope they enjoyed tasting the finished product.

Last week all the children had a tour around school to see the places they are not yet familiar with. This week we also talked about the cellar and keeping ourselves safe by not climbing on the roof of the cellar, which is in the playground opposite our cloakroom door. We had individual photos on Wednesday and the children were very smart and sensible.

We thought more about the school behaviour code this week and the children have made hand prints for our classroom 'Promise Rainbow'. Each colour we painted on our hands to print represent a different part of the behaviour code, which is: 'Be Kind (blue), Be Honest (orange), Be Respectful (purple), Be my Best Self' (red). The yellow thumb represents our promise to do all these things. We will put the rainbow together next week and the children

will also have an individual hand print of their own. This could be displayed somewhere at home to help them remember good behaviour at home as well as at school. We will of course spend a lot of time over the coming weeks exploring what each element in our behaviour code means and how we can all be our best selves.

Mrs Jarvis has given me the following information about her music lesson this week: *This week in music we have been investigating sounds and silence. We started the lesson with singing, the children chose some lovely songs. We also tried to hop and sway to the music this week, to add to our marching skills. We spent some time trying to work out what is noise and realised it was just another word for sound. To understand what sound is, we needed to practise being silent. You'll be impressed to know that they all stayed quiet for 30 seconds! Whilst we were being quiet, it was amazing what sounds we could hear that we don't normally notice. We looked at a range of images relating to different noises and the children put them into groups of sounds they liked and sounds they didn't like. Some interesting choices! We finished off with a musical story of the Mini Beast Bop!*

Next Wednesday I would like the children to come to school in their PE kit and training shoes, if they have them, please and bring their uniform and shoes with them. We will help them change after our PE lesson. The following week (Wednesday 16th October) we will be having an autumn adventure on the Harewood Estate in the morning. We won't be doing PE that day but the children can still come in PE kit and wear it for the visit and then the rest of the day (no time for changing). I think the PE kit will be warmer and more practical for them on our walk. If you don't have any school PE joggy bottoms, any will do on that day because they will benefit from having their legs covered. They will also need strong walking shoes or comfortable wellies to wear if it's wet. Alternatively, send a change of footwear for when we get back to school. They will also need a warm waterproof coat. I will send more information about the visit nearer the time.

It's World Mental Health Day next Thursday and the children will be making individual leaves for the school Friendship Tree with a little help from the school's Mindmate Ambassadors, who are going to join us in Class one on Thursday afternoon.

It was great to see that so many of you were able to join us again for the harvest celebration and thank you very much for all your kind donations for the Wetherby food bank.

Have a great weekend. Kind regards from Mrs Watts.