

Dear Families,

Last week was Anti bullying week. The theme was 'Choose Respect' and we learned why respect is important and why it's important to treat everyone with respect. We also looked at the school behaviour code and the restorative questions we can use to rebuild relationships when things have gone wrong in some way. Thank you for your support of the odd socks day and also the PTA Golden ticket chocolate bars. These are going home tonight with strict instructions not to open until you do it with them at home. Keep your golden tickets safe for the prize draw next Friday.

In phonics we have completed Phase 2 and next week we will review all the GPC and tricky words we have learned so far before moving on to Phase three the following week. I'm so please that the children's blending is getting really strong now and some of them, who recognise all the GPC taught to far as well as the tricky words we have done, ('l', 'no', 'go', 'to, and 'the'), now have a home and school reading book from our reading scheme (going home tonight).

Over the last two weeks in maths we have been thinking about, shapes, positional language, subitising and have covered White Rose Phase 5 '1,2,3,4,5' During this phase we have been looking at the composition of numbers to five, as well as 'one more' and one less' than a given number to five. Next week we continue our work on number through other activities but will also be thinking about shapes with four sides again in our whole class teaching.

We enjoyed sharing the baby pictures at the start of our Christmas theme in RE. We also celebrated odd socks day by designing Christmas stockings. These have since been sewn by the children and are awaiting further decoration in the coming weeks. I have explained to the children that the stockings will be on display in the classroom until the end of term and then they can go home (filled with a few little treats from me). There are lots of other exciting Christmas events coming up before the end of term. On Friday next week (29th Nov) the whole school is visiting St George's Church in Leeds for a Nativity performance. A letter/message has already gone home about this from Mr Radcliffe. On Friday 6th December we are going on our Christmas visit to Harewood House for Mischief at the Mansion, which looks very exciting. We will be having a Christmas party in the final week of term, as well as the whole school Nativity Performance on Wednesday 18th December.

During our Nativity performance the whole school sings carols and Christmas songs, the Year Six children read the story and Class One play the roles of the characters on the stage. They do not have to say any lines unless they want to, as the Year six children will speak for them. I know some of the children in the class are a little reluctant to be 'on stage' and I have reassured them that they will not have to go on stage if they don't want to. I have also told them however, that learning our Christmas songs, the story and making a contribution in some way to the performance is required from everyone, even if that's just looking after props for their friends whilst sitting beside the stage. Being apprehensive about performing is natural but I'm sure when we begin learning about our part in telling the story, doing the rehearsals and choosing costumes etc. those children will be more positive about the whole thing. There will be two performances, so everyone who wants to come can do so. The performance will be ticketed, just to make sure we have space for everyone at each performance. Times and further details

will be sent out soon. We have already begun learning the Christmas/Nativity story, a little about each character and the importance of the birth of Jesus for Christians. As you will know already, we have also begun to learn some of the Christmas songs and carols (see below for Mrs Jarvis lesson information).

Mrs Jarvis has given me the following information about her music lessons: *We have continued our topic on Celebration Music. We learnt about the Jewish festival of Hanukkah and its special instruments and dances. We learnt that Hanukkah is the festival of light, just like Diwali, and that music and dance are an important part of the festival. We thought about the similarities and the differences between Diwali and Hanukkah and compared them to Christmas. We learnt the names of some traditional Jewish instruments and listened to their sound. We then matched up the pictures of the instruments with the sounds. We learnt how to dance the Hora and then danced it to some traditional Jewish music – the children were fabulous!*

This week we learnt about the African American festival of Kwanzaa. We learnt that the festival of Kwanzaa was all about unity within African communities. We found that again, light was very important and that they had a 'kinara' which held seven candles, one lit for every day of the festival. We talked about African music and dance being part of the celebrations. We learnt about 'call and response' songs and learnt an African song with African words! I was very impressed with the children's pronunciation of the words!

We have begun to learn our Christmas songs ready for the nativity. One of Class One's special parts of the nativity is to sing 'Away in a Manger'. We are of course, practising this in school but it would be really helpful if you could sing through it at home with them too please. The more they practise it, the more confident they will be and the more they will hopefully enjoy being part of the nativity. The children have learnt verses 1 and 2 and will be learning verse 3 next week. Thank you for your help and support.

Here are the lyrics we are using, as I know that some of them can be different;

Away in a Manger

***Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.***

***The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love You, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my side, until morning is nigh.***

***Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.***

Thank you those of you who have been taking part in the 'Cut your carbon challenge', I've already seen evidence on Tapestry, which we have shared with the class to inspire others. Have a great weekend. Kind regards from Mrs Watts.