

Dear Families,

This week we had the Mindmate support team in to deliver a workshop on anxiety. We thought about how it's normal to feel anxious, nervous or a bit scared sometimes and some of the things we can do to help us feel better when it happens, like 'bunny breaths'.

Since my last update we have been very busy preparing for Christmas. We decorated the school tree with the beautiful baubles we made. We have also changed some of the provision areas in the classroom and the children have been very busy and excited to set up a Santa's Grotto in our role play area. We talked about Advent, which means to prepare and get ready for Jesus' birth. We finished the advent calendars we made by choosing pictures with a Christmas theme and then sequencing the Christmas story with the last five pictures. The children also wrote their own numbers for the doors which cover their pictures and decorated them with Christmas tape. They have enjoyed opening each door so far and will do this until we finish for the Christmas holidays, when they can take them home. For our nativity performance we have been getting to know the characters and sorting costumes. We just have a week of rehearsals to go so the children can practise acting out their parts whilst listening to the Year Six readers telling the story. They're doing really well learning the carols, as well as our special song, 'Away in a Manger'.

In the final week of term we will have the whole school Nativity dress rehearsal on Monday 16th in the afternoon, followed by the actual performances on the morning and afternoon of Wednesday 18th. A letter came home this week, as well as an email so you can get your tickets. On Thursday 19th we will have our Christmas party and Christmas dinner day. As a special treat the children can bring a teddy from home on this day and of course come in party clothes or Christmas jumpers if you wish. Next week they will be writing an invitation to their teddy to make it official.

In phonics we have completed Phase 2 and reviewed all our GPC and tricky words. Next week we will be starting on Phase Three. In maths we have been learning about numbers to five, as well as more about shapes and pattern through lots of games and activities.

Mrs Jarvis has given me the following information about her music lessons: *In music we have started to think about Christmas traditions and music. We talked about the different things we all do at Christmas and how these compare to the other celebrations we have learnt about. We learnt Jingle Bells, an adopted Christmas song that was originally written for Thanksgiving in America! The children experimented with body percussion sounds for the reindeers – we had some wonderful 'clip clops'. We then added some instruments and played Jingle Bells using a graphic score. We had three groups of different instruments and the children played their instrument when the score showed their colour. They did an amazing job! We have been learning some Christmas Makaton signs and singing and signing to some of the Singing Hands songs. Our favourite is 'I Ho Ho Hope It's Santa Claus'! Here is the link, if you would like to take a look;*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibKGA0YIX-M>



[Makaton - I HO HO HOPE IT'S SANTA CLAUS - Singing Hands](#)

We LOVE this song - it's such a brilliant showtune for #Christmas. This is our cover version (with added #Makaton) of Tom Fletcher's song from his book "The Christmasaurus". This story features a young boy who is a wheelchair user who is obsessed with dinosaurs! You can buy the original story with CD soundtrack here: <https://www.amazon.co.uk> ...

www.youtube.com

Of course, we are still practising our nativity song, Away in a Manger too.

Today we had a fabulous visit to Harewood House for a look around the state rooms at 'Mischief at the Mansion'. We enjoyed seeing what all the mischievous angels had been doing, as well as seeing the magical talking baubles, plates and statues. I highly recommend a family visit if you haven't been yet. I will put some photos on Tapestry over the weekend for you. The children were all superstars and I had lovely comments from some of the staff who work in the house about their excellent behaviour. We also had a little treat of popcorn when we reached the shop.

Thank you in advance for your support of the Frosty Fest organised by the school council after school tonight, Mrs Dodd and the children really put a lot of work into it and your support it is really appreciated.

Have a great weekend. Kind regards from Mrs Watts.