

Dear Families,

This week the children have been choosing to practise their ball skills in the garden, as well as using our PE time for games skills. Over the past couple of weeks we have been practising games using space and attacking and defending in teams.

In phonics we have continued to learn Phase Three digraphs and trigraphs but at a slower pace, as I mentioned in my last update. Over the last two weeks we have learned 'ai', 'ee', 'igh' and 'oa'. We have been focusing on the tricky words 'was' and 'my' for reading and 'I', 'no', and 'go' for writing from memory. We have also spent a lot of time on learning our alphabet, including recognising both upper and lower case letters, recognising individual letters and saying their names in isolation. You will have noticed a change in the homework, which I hope you have found a little more interesting as well as challenging enough.

In White Rose maths we finished a more in depth look at the numbers 6, 7, and 8, calculating how many by combining two groups of numbers and have revised odd and even numbers, doubles and pairs. This week and into next week we have also been thinking about comparing length and height. We made new playdough last week and all the children helped to make it, after taking the opportunity to explore the different ingredients. It gave us an opportunity to practise mathematical language regarding capacity and different quantities, as well as being great fun to play with. The children have also been taking a keen interest in playing maths games with their friends, which is lovely to see and something I will be encouraging more of in coming weeks.

In RE we thought about 'history' as a subject by looking at, talking about and making comparisons between the homes we live in and the ones Jesus was likely to have lived in as he was growing up (thank you for the house photos, the children enjoyed telling their friends about their homes). We also talked about how the clothes we wear today are different to the ones Jesus would have worn as a boy. Last week we also thought about the story of Jesus being presented in the Temple as a baby, which is the story behind Candlemas celebrations in the Christian Church. We were a little early, as Candlemas is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February and we will be revisiting the story in Collective Worship with Reverend James next week. Chinese New Year started this week, so we thought about how it is celebrated and shared the story of how the different animals were chosen to name the years in the Chinese Zodiac. This also gave us the opportunity to practise ordinal numbers by making a display.

Mrs Jarvis has given me the following information about her music lessons: We have been learning different ways of telling a story through music. We used actions to tell the story of 'The Sleeping Princess'. We read the traditional fairytale and talked about the important points in the story that needed to be included to make the story make sense. Then we listened to a song based on the story and made up some actions to go with it. The children took it in turns to play the different roles – we had some fabulous 'sleeping princesses' and 'galloping princes'!

This week we read and watched 'We're Going On A Bear Hunt'. We experimented with percussion instruments to decide which instrument made the sound to go with the 'swishy swashy' of the grass and with all the other obstacles. The children thought about how to play the instrument, how loud or quiet, how quickly or slowly it needed to be. The children all had a part to play in the story and we watched a video playing our instruments at the correct time in the story – it was lots of fun at the end when the sounds come very quickly after each other! I was really impressed with the children, they watched and waited for their turn and played their instruments beautifully.

In PSHE and PSED we shared the story of the Wizard of Oz (this was very exciting for those who have recently watched Wicked). I told the story but used some pictures and short video clips from the 1939 version of the film starring Judy Garland, but not the whole film. We thought about the characters, what they wanted to achieve by visiting the wizard and began thinking about how they all had what they wanted already and just didn't realize it. We have created a display board of the yellow brick road and pictures from the story and will use it for our 'Going for Goals' target board. The children began making a little 'mini me' picture of themselves (or a character from the

story if they wanted to). We will use these pictures to travel along the Yellow Brick Road on our display. When the children have met the goal they want to achieve they will reach the Emerald City for a reward. We will be talking about resilience and how the things we want to achieve are all possible, if we are prepared to work hard, do our best and never give up. I have been doing my phonics assessments so, next week, the children and I will plan targets linked to the things they need to practise the most. I have to say, I was very impressed with how they all did in the assessments.

The children have all brought a book mark home with them tonight to decorate. We are running a competition for the best decorated bookmark in each class so, if they want their book mark to be entered in the competition they must make sure their name is on it and it is returned by the middle of next week as the judging will take place on Thursday. This activity is part of the build up to the Book Fair, which is the following week w.b. 10<sup>th</sup> February. They don't have to enter the competition and can just keep their book mark, but if they do enter the competition, they will of course also get it back to keep. Mr Ratcliffe sent an email with information about the Book Fair earlier in the week.

Have a great weekend everyone. Kind regards from Mrs Watts.