

Dear Families,

We have already been very busy in our RE so far this half-term. The focus for this time leading up to Easter is on some of the things Jesus did as a man and a teacher. We have also begun sharing some of the parables He told to teach people about God. I think it is really important for the children to learn about Jesus' life and the significance of it for Christians, before we learn about his death at Easter, in a few weeks' time. In addition to this there are lots of important Christian events to learn about. We shared the parable of The Lost Sheep last week, before having to find 100 sheep in the garden. This was followed by some clever maths to check how many we had and making sure none were lost. This week the children learned how Jesus chose twelve special friends to help him teach people about God (His disciples). We also learned about Shrove Tuesday, celebrating in a traditional way by making and enjoying pancakes. We also learned about Ash Wednesday and Lent.

In PSHE we have been thinking about self-regulation, including being able to wait for what we want and control immediate impulses. We have also learned more about understanding the emotions of ourselves and recognising emotions in others. We shared the story 'The Jar of Happiness' by Alisa Burrows. All this linked in nicely with input from D-side Dave last Thursday. Dave's visit also helped the children think about how to keep themselves safe, talking about drug awareness (in an age appropriate way of course). They discussed who might be a safe, trusted person to take medicines from and how medicines can make you poorly if you do not need them.

In phonics over the last two weeks we have we have learned the GPC 'ow', 'oi', 'ear' and 'air' and learned new tricky words 'here', 'all' and 'are' for reading and 'no', 'go', 'to', 'the' and 'I' for writing. The children have generally found the 'air' and 'ear' trigraphs difficult to remember this week (they are a bit confusing as they are so similar) Consequently, once we have finished all the Phase three GPC at the end of next week, we will be revisiting these again before spending the rest of the half-term reviewing all the Phase Three GPC.

We started doing gymnastics in PE with a session last week on balancing on different parts of our bodies and being able to stay still in a balance with control. This week we were practising how to pencil roll safely and with control.

On Monday we visited Harewood Estate for our second environmental day of the year. We were looking for evidence that spring is here (just) and, although the weather could have been warmer, we had a great time. We thought about using our senses to explore the world around us (all except taste) and saw snowdrops, daffodils and crocuses. We also spelt the scents of the woodland and heard birds singing. We thought and explored our sense of touch by looking at different textures in the wood and recording them by doing rubbings with wax crayons. The children were brilliant.

In our maths we have started a new phase called, 'Building Nine and Ten'. This is a three week block and over the last two weeks we have thought about recognising, representing and finding number bonds to nine and ten and also finding one more and one less than numbers to ten. We used the ten frames and counters as a group and I was impressed at

how well the children listened and demonstrated really careful mathematical thinking to represent ten in different ways though some games and challenges.

Mrs Jarvis' music lessons also link nicely with our springtime theme this half-term and she has given me the following information about her music lessons over the last two weeks: *This half term we will be learning about Antonio Vivaldi and his composition, 'The Four Seasons'. We will be concentrating on the first concerto, Spring. This week we learnt about Vivaldi's life, in particular, that he was special because he wrote music about real things, like the weather. We listened to the music whilst we completed a story map about Vivaldi's life. We also had great fun singing, especially our Crispy Pancake song!*

Thank you for your support for our Book Day celebrations, the children looked fabulous and, although some of them had made a book cover design at home, we also made time to do this in class if they wanted to enter the competition. We shared some of our favourite stories from books and told stories of our own, had a special book themed lunch and had two mystery readers visited the class in the afternoon. The children who brought books to swap also had the opportunity to choose a book to take home as part of our book swap. Next week I will be introducing the Class One Lending Library to the children, but I will send you information about how that works next week when we start (I didn't want the lending library books to get confused with book swap books!)

The children have been doing well at choosing their own dinner each day over the past two weeks. We always help them read the menu for the day and then they have to write the colour they have chosen on the class list. They will soon be experts at writing the colours; red, green and yellow.

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