

Dear Families,

Over the last two weeks we have finished our Easter jobs, including making caves, like the tomb Jesus' body was put in after the crucifixion. We made them from clay by moulding it in our hands and choosing a pebble to represent the stone in front of the tomb. We also made wooden crosses out of lolly sticks and, when the clay was dry, we put them all in our Easter garden with the caves. The children finished their Easter books, after cutting out and sequencing the pictures to retell the story – they have all brought them home to keep. In other RE learning, we were thinking more about how we can take care of our wonderful world, our class garden included. Over the holidays we had some improvements done in the garden and the children were excited to investigate. We have spent lots of lovely time outside and are talking and thinking about other improvements we can make during the rest of the term. Also linked to this theme was a brilliant Harewood Estate Spring Eco visit with John (I have put photographs on Tapestry, as well as the notice board). We also shared some lovely photos and information about recent Eid celebrations, which came in for show and tell.

Thanks to everyone who did some reading using the e-books I set up for you over the holidays and for recording what the children have read. They are all doing great and I got most of my phonics assessments for the end of Phase three finished this week. The children were subsequently moved on the Going for Goals target board to reach the Emerald City (receiving the Emerald City stickers and a small treat as well). In the coming weeks we will be setting new targets to work towards. On Tuesday next week will be starting Phase Four, where the words get longer and we have to listen carefully for adjacent consonants in words. In maths we have started focussing on numbers larger than ten with lessons, games and activities. Some of the children are finding it a bit tricky to get used to the numerals from eleven to twenty so you could start thinking about them at home to support please. We are thinking about how eleven is 'ten and one more', 'twelve is ten and two more' etc. Please check the children are saying the numbers correctly, as I have heard / identified some confusion with the 'teen' numbers e.g. 'thirteen' or 'fourteen' etc. and 'thirty' or 'forty'. If this doesn't make sense I apologise – just come and see me and I'll explain that better.

I'm sure the children will have told you about Miss Brogan, who joined us this week and will be with us until almost the end of the year. Miss Brogan is finishing her teacher training with us after being with Class Two on her second to last placement earlier in the year. She is therefore already very familiar with our school and is delightful with the children. She is already building great relationships and I look forward to working with her more during her placement.

Mrs Jarvis has given me the following information about her music lessons over the past two weeks: *This half term we will be learning about the orchestra. We have started our journey with Tormod the troll, to discover more about the four families of the orchestra. The children talked about what makes up their family and we decided we could apply the same ideas to the musical instruments – whether they looked the same, we play them the same way, they are made from the same material. We played some games to see if we could work out the families some instruments were from. To finish, we listened and watched the beginning of our composition for this term, Benjamin Britten's 'Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra'.*

*This week we began by learning about our composer, Benjamin Britten and found out he was born in 1913 which wasn't as long ago as Vivaldi. We continued learning about the orchestra and have explored instruments from the woodwind family, the flute, clarinet, oboe and bassoon. We have been exploring the similarities and differences between them in terms of what they look like and how they are played. We looked and listened to the flute in real life and listened to the other instruments on the CD with Tormod, our friendly troll. We played a game where we pretended to play the woodwind instruments and we*

*watched these instruments in action in our composition 'A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra' by Benjamin Britten.*

In PE this half-term we are learning about athletics and preparing for sports day, which will be next half-term. We began by thinking about running. Sounds simple but it's harder than you might think to run in a straight line when you're only five. We practised listening for the starting signal and then running in our own space, straight and running over the line to be as fast as we can (they often want to stop on the finish line, which slows them down). We will of course also be addressing issues of good sportsmanship, how important it is to try your best and learning that we can't always win or be the best at everything.

Today we really enjoyed watching the Class Two dress rehearsal for their Wizard of Oz performance, which is next week. The children were brilliant and very excited to see a slightly different version of the story. As always with these things we took the opportunity to talk about what was the same and what was different between different versions of the same story.

Have a lovely long weekend everyone and I will see you on Tuesday.

Kind regards from Mrs Watts.