

Dear Families,

Over the past two weeks, well as our usual PSHE learning about feelings and friendships, we made our own unique leaves for the school Friendship tree with help from the Year Six Mindmates. Today, after sharing the Noah's Ark story earlier in the week, we thought about the meaning of a promise and the children enjoyed making handprints for the promise rainbow in the classroom. We made our rainbow with handprints to help us learn the school's behaviour code and thought about how rules can be a good way to keep everyone safe and happy. The children will also be taking a handprint home (once they are dry and laminated. This will be a reminder to them that our promises to, 'Be kind', 'Be honest', 'Be respectful' and 'Be our best self' are also important when we are out of school. We will be thinking more about the meaning of each aspect of the behaviour code over the year.

Thank you for your continued support with the phonics homework. Some of the children are really beginning to get the hang of the blending and are remembering the GPC learnt, so they will be getting a reading scheme book very soon. From now we will probably only mark the homework once a week on a Friday so the children can then get their team points in the box ready for the family celebration. Consequently, until we have the reading record books up and running, if you have any questions, please email me or catch me in the morning or after school. Next week we will be starting phonics week 4 and learning the GPC 'ck' (our first digraph), 'e', 'u' and 'r', along with two 'tricky' words ('the' and 'to'). As next week is a slightly shorter week due to the trip on Tuesday and the final week of term is only four days, I will not be moving on to phonics week 5 until after the half-term. We will use that final week to consolidate and practise what we have covered so far.

In White Rose Maths we have moved to Block 2, 'Talk about Measure and Pattern'. We have been comparing weight, length and height, as well as thinking about copying and continuing simple repeating patterns. Lessons and games have been done on the interactive white board, as well as through activities in the classroom. I also completed all my maths baseline assessments for the statutory RBA this week.

I hope you enjoyed watching the children's Little Red Hen story in our Harvest celebration last week, it was lovely to see so many families able to join us for that. As well as learning about harvest time in RE over the past few weeks, we have been listening to and sequencing creation stories from different religions. We talked about how some stories are similar and some are quite different. This week we also shared and sequenced the Old Testament story of Noah's Ark.

Thank you for sending the children in their PE kits with their clothes to change into. A little support has been needed to get things the right way round and do some buttons but I was very impressed and not a complaint to be heard about it from the children, which was a bonus. Good job Class One! From next week they can come in PE kit on a Wednesday and stay in it for the day, no change of clothes required.

Mrs Jarvis has given me the following information about her music lessons: *We have been singing lots of nursery rhymes and other songs, the children chose their favourites. We recapped that rhythm is a pattern of different sounds and worked out how many sounds there were in our names. As it was harvest week, we looked at pictures of fruit and vegetables and worked out how many different sounds the name had. I was very impressed at how determined the children were to work it out. They all had individual turns and then we all clapped them together. Our favourite vegetable was cauliflower! Then we put our fruit and vegetables together to make longer rhythms. We finished off singing 'Walking Through the Jungle' with some wonderful animal sound effects!*

This week in music we have been investigating sounds and silence. We started the lesson with singing, the children chose some lovely songs. We spent some time trying to work out what is noise and realised it was just another word for sound. To understand what sound is, we needed to practise being silent. You'll be impressed to know that they all stayed quiet for 30 seconds! Whilst we were being quiet, it was amazing what sounds we could hear that we don't normally notice. We looked at a range of images relating to different noises and the children put them into groups of sounds they liked and sounds they didn't like. Some interesting choices! Finally, we watched a Sonic Explorers clip and the children started to realise that sounds are all around us every day and if you stop and listen, it is amazing what you can hear!

Thank you for sorting the bun sales and to our helpers this week. We just need one more volunteer for the 22nd April please, I will leave it with you and just check nearer the time to ensure we have it covered. The children were very excited for their first bun sale on Thursday and enjoyed decorating their bags beforehand.

Next week, Tuesday 13th October, we will be visiting Harewood Estate for our Autumn environmental morning. On the day of the visit we will be leaving school at 9.15 for a trailer ride from Muddy Boots into the Estate, to a secret camp in the woods. We will be returning for lunch time. The children will need a warm, waterproof coat and strong, preferably waterproof and comfortable footwear. They will also need their legs covered please and do not need to be in uniform. We will still be going if it's a wet day, so you could also send a change of clothes for when we get back to school if you wish. We will learn about changes that are happening in the environment at this time of year. I asked the children to bring objects, such as conkers and acorns etc. for an Autumn display in the classroom today.

Finally, just a word about show and tell, as a couple of parents have asked me about appropriate things to bring. The purpose of show and tell is to develop the children's language skills, share something interesting about themselves or their family and answer questions from their friends. Putting photos or videos on Tapestry is the ideal scenario; it does not have to be an epic adventure (unless you have had one) and it does not have to have just happened the previous weekend. It can be about a pet, a visit from family, a favourite toy or something they have made and they can of course bring something in physically to show as well. Please help them make it interesting so they can talk about it confidently and answer questions, not just a toy they picked up as they left the house! They should also know now that they can only do one show and tell a week (with the exception of a birthday week). I hope this makes sense but please ask if you're confused or the children are telling you something different.

Have a great weekend.
Kind regards from Mrs Watts.