**Reception Newsletter Friday 10th January 2020**

**Spring Term Week 1**

Dear Parents,

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| **Stars of the week!**  **Sophie Clark:** For an excellent attitude towards her learning and showing lots of enthusiasm in all she does😊!  **Harrison Whittle:** For working really hard all week and using everything he is learning in his independent tasks😊! |

**Welcome back & Happy New Year 😊!**

I would like to begin by thanking you all for your lovely cards, gifts and kind wishes over the Christmas period, Miss Cooper, Mrs Jones and I appreciate it greatly😊!

The children have come back to school full of exciting tales, refreshed, happy and eager to learn again and they have been introduced to a new child and a new member of our team. We would like to welcome Jensen Wright to the class, he has just completed his first full week with us and has settled in brilliantly and made lots of new friends. We would also like to welcome Miss Atkinson who is a teacher training student on her block B placement. She will be staying with us until Easter and she has had a lovely first week and the children have made her feel very welcome😊!

This term our topic is based around ‘Pirates’ and this week we have been looking at what pirates look like and how they behave.

In Maths we have been focusing on data handling and have looked at how we travel to school and which form of transport we would most like to travel in or on. We also went and carried out a transport survey of what vehicles travel up and down Brandlesholme Road. The children have really enjoyed creating their bar charts and have started to interpret the data well, discussing the most and least popular forms of transport and working out problems involving the amounts.

In phonics, the children have been split into three specific groups depending on the areas they need to work on from their assessment results. They have spent the week recapping on all set one sounds and red words learnt so far and developing their word building skills. We have been really impressed at how independent the children are becoming with their segmenting and blending. This week’s new red word is ‘go’.

Homework: The children have now completed all set one sounds and have been recapping on these this week so the majority of children will not have any new phonic sounds for the next couple of weeks. Attached is a homework project for all the children to complete linked to our topic. They have a few weeks to complete this homework and all the details are on the homework sheet attached.

Boo boxes: It has taken Miss Cooper a long time to reorganise the boo boxes this week as some of them were returned in quite a messy state with felt pens tipped everywhere, broken items, ripped books and items missing. The boo boxes are a fabulous resource and the children love bringing them home, but it is starting to get very expensive if we have to keep replacing items. Please could we ask you to check the box before it is returned to school to ensure it has everything in and also that it looks in a reasonable state. This will teach the children to respect other people’s property and how it is important to take care of items as they cost money.

Water bottles: Please could we ask all parents to provide a named water bottle for their children in class. We have a number of children who are still not bringing a bottle and are asking for drinks of water throughout the day. Unfortunately, we do not have the facilities to start storing cups and jugs of water in class as well as the water bottles.

School uniform: Please could we ask all parents to check that all school items are labelled correctly and clearly and that the items that you have at home definitely belong to your child. We still have a couple of jumpers missing from pupils in our class which have not been returned since before Christmas. One of these belongs to Amari Hussain and is clearly labelled, so if you could please check again, I would be extremely grateful.

Reading: This week the children have started to get back into a routine after the chaos of Christmas☺! It has come to our attention as we have been changing the reading books this week that some children have not read since the beginning of December. We understand how busy life can get but it is imperative to your child’s progress that they spend at least 5 minutes a night sharing a book with you, trying to recognise their sounds and words and develop their segmenting and blending skills. We cannot stress enough the importance of reading with your child at home as well as in school. We thank you for your support with this matter.

Dates for the upcoming term:

* Friday 24th January: Chinese New Year: Children to wear something red.
* Thursday 13th February: Valentines Disco.
* Friday 14th February: Break up for half term.
* Monday 24th February: Back to school.
* Friday 6th March: World book day: children to dress up as their favourite book character.
* Monday 23rd March: YR parents evening.
* Wednesday 25th March: YR parents evening.
* Friday 27th March: YR’s first class assembly😊!
* Friday 3rd April: Break up for Easter.

With thanks,

Mrs Hesketh