

## HOME COMMUNICATION LETTER - Spring Term

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers of Children in Willow Class,

The children have made a fabulous start back after Christmas, they are all doing so well and Miss Nicoll and I are very proud of them all. They are such a lovely class! It was super to have such positive and informative conversations with you all at Parents' Evening and thank you for your time and input.

**Topic:** Our topics this term will, once again, be mainly lead by the children's interests. The themes will lend themselves beautifully to classwork based on the Early Learning Goals, for example:

- Literacy - phonics, stories, rhymes, poetry, non fiction writing
- Maths - reading & writing numbers, counting, measuring
- Understanding the World - living things, similarities, differences, patterns and change, customs and festivals and using technology
- Expressive Arts & Design - art and craft activities, dance, learning songs
- Communication and Language - listening attentively, following instructions, speaking clearly and using the correct tenses
- Physical Development - control and co-ordination in large and small movements, health and safety
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development - confidence to try new activities, working as part of the class or in a group

**Literacy:** The children will continue to bring home reading books each day. Please keep up your super support with sounds and reading practise as this makes all the difference to your child's progress. We do the teaching and ask you to do the practising! Your comments in the Reading Record book are extremely useful so many thanks.

We will continue work on learning new letters and sounds, now moving onto more digraphs (2 letters that make 1 sound). We will be developing knowledge of digraphs, tricky words (words that are not decodable) and gradually increasing the children's independence when writing simple phrases and sentences including the use of full stops and spaces between words.

Words containing digraphs and tricky words will be added to the children's home learning in their yellow sounds book as your child is ready for them, so please ensure these are kept in their book bags. You might like to start asking your child to spell these words but only once they are truly competent at reading them. As the children are now learning so many sounds, some children can start to find retaining all of them difficult so I would like to stress the value of regular practice. Thank you.

**Maths:** This term the children will be building on the skills that they have acquired; they will be developing their understanding of counting, adding and subtracting through practical activities, games and discussion, problem solving, investigating shapes and measuring. You can give valuable support at home by practising number writing and giving lots of practical opportunities to apply maths eg. cooking, shopping, counting in context etc.

**R.E:** We will continue thinking about our school values of Love, Hope and Courage plus our RE themes are Special Places and Celebrating Easter.

**P.E** Our PE days will continue to be on a Tuesday and a Thursday. The children will be working on control, co-ordination, movement and spatial awareness through Games, Dance and Gymnastic skills. We will also aim to continue to do a walk each week as the children have gained much from these.

**Show and Tell** This will continue to be a regular slot on a Monday. This is an opportunity for the children to show and talk about something relating to our topic, an item of personal significance or something that they've taken time to make at home.

**Wow moments and Tapestry** Please share as many successes out of school that you are able to! It is so lovely to find out about the aspects of your child's development that I don't see in school eg. riding a bike, swimming, trying new things, joining in with family customs (weddings, Christenings) etc . It would also be particularly helpful if you could send me Tapestry, or hard copy, photos showing your child engaging with a range of technology at home eg. using an ipad/microwave/tv control/computer game etc. This all helps me to build a balanced picture of achievement!

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

**Mrs Catherine Hall**