

Reception Class News - 10th February 2019

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me at our recent parent consultation evenings. I hope you found our conversation helpful.

We have had a very busy half term in school. Below is a summary of some of the things that we have been doing.

In maths, we have been concentrating on recognising and recording numbers. We have also been doing lots of practical addition and subtraction too. We have also been enjoying the new series of Numberblocks which focuses on teen numbers.

Antarctica was a very popular topic this term. We started off by going on a “visit” to Antarctica and thinking about what it might be like and what we would do there. We then wrote postcards or packing lists based on our “trip”. The Scott Polar Institute very kindly lent us two handling collections so that we could handle clothes and accessories from explorers both past and present. We also read a non-fiction text and watched clips of Emperor Penguins. We extended this work by creating penguin collages, painting “Antarctica” themed colours on tin foil and used a step by step guide to drawing penguins. In PE, we used music as a stimulus for movement. We watched the formation of a snowflake and then created our own dancing snowflakes to The Waltz of the Snowflakes from The Nutcracker.

World Religions Week was also a great success. We were very fortunate to have visitors from SWCHS who both spoke and answered questions about Ramadan. We also visited the “pop-up” museum in Year 6 where our buddies talked about artefacts from different religions.

We have also been finding out about Chinese New Year. We watched a clip showing how a family celebrate Chinese New Year in the UK and made our own Chinese lanterns. Then we read the traditional story of The Great Race and are now doing some writing linked to the story. In PE, we watched a Chinese dragon dance and have been creating our own dragon dance moves, using pompoms to add colour.

It has certainly been cold over the last couple of weeks and we took advantage of a particularly frosty day to go on a walk around the school grounds, looking for signs of winter. On that note, please could you make sure that your child has a pair of gloves or mittens on cold days and a pair of wellingtons on very wet/snowy days.

Please could you continue to read regularly with your child and also practise their sight words. This will enable your child to build their fluency and develop their reading skills. In phonics, we continue to look at digraphs in school, for example, /er/ as in term, /ar/ as in card, /or/ as in cord, /oa/ as in boat, /oy/ as in boy and /oi/ as in oil.

Optional Maths Challenge

Cut a piece of string or ribbon the length of your child’s arm and ask them to find things longer, shorter and the same length. Choose how you would like to present the information – your child may wish to use a camera or draw what they have found. Please send it into school for our Wow Wall or add it to Tapestry. Photographs may also be emailed to me via the school admin email: admin@greatchesterford.essex.sch.uk

We will be sending PE kits home at the end of the week. There has been quite a lot of muddled kit this half term so please could you ensure that all of your child's items are very clearly named and also check their plimsolls to ensure they are still a comfortable fit. The children use their PE kits at least twice a week so they do need a white school PE top, navy shorts and black plimsolls in school all the time.

Below is a list of dates for your diary.

1st March – We will be leading the Friday collective worship and you are warmly invited to join us.

10th May – Bring an adult to school morning (9:45-10:45am)

20th June - E-safety workshop (evening) - I would urge you to attend this meeting as the information is relevant to parents of children of all ages.

It is hard to believe that we are almost half way through our year in Reception Class and I thank you, on behalf of the Reception team, for your continued support. We hope that you enjoy the holidays and look forward to welcoming you back to school for another exciting half term.

Very best wishes

Amanda Davies.