



## **Pear Class News**

### **Autumn 2**

Wow! Where did that first half term go? I welcome you back to yet another busy, enjoyable half term. We are still extremely proud of how well all the children are doing and how they have come together as a class, working well with each other, being considerate of each other and taking the time to support one another. As we push through this half term the pace does not let up, and we also have to somehow squeeze in some Christmas festivities too!

### **Read, Write, Inc**

We have continued to make great progress with learning the Set 1 Read, Write Inc sounds. As you have discovered, this is the beginning of an exciting journey of learning and using letter sounds that unlock the door to reading and writing. We can't thank you enough for supporting your child at home, regular practise at home makes such a difference. We will continue to include PDF's of the letters and sounds that your child has been learning so that you can reinforce recognition and formation.

### **Mathematics**

This half term, we shall be ensuring that everyone in Pear class has a solid understanding of numbers to 10. As well as counting forwards and backwards, ordering, adding, reading and writing digits, we'll be comparing numbers by using clear mathematical language such as more, less, fewer, most and least. In addition to this, we'll be learning 2d and 3d shape names, investigating the properties of these shapes and looking for them in the environment that surrounds us at school. We have already been applying our shape knowledge this week as we made our rockets and fireworks! Towards the end of the term our Christmas topic will provide us with lots of opportunity to order and compare size (parcels and letters in our Christmas themed role play area).

### **The World**

We have already begun our first mini topic, 'bonfire night,' by creating fantastic firework pictures which are hanging proudly in our classroom. This week we have also found out the best materials to make rockets by using 3d shapes. Next week we move onto our second mini topic and start to gain a little understanding of Remembrance Day and the reason why we wear poppies.

Within this half term we will begin to understand the concept of day and night (light and dark.) We will be creating a dark cave area in the classroom, where the children can start to investigate shadows by using torches and twinkle lights.

In addition to this we will be learning about nocturnal animals, with a particular focus on owls. Towards the end of this half term we will be celebrating Christmas. Making Christmas cards, retelling Christmas stories and using ICT programmes to create Christmas themed pictures - these are just some of the exciting things we have planned!

## **Creative Work**

Singing is a daily occurrence in Pear class and we'll be learning lots of new topic themed songs as well as enjoying old favourites! There will be opportunities for painting and collaging, particularly as we explore Christmas and we'll be making some very careful and detailed pictures of Owls. Of course, there will be plenty of creative materials out every day as part of our continuous provision and children will be free to follow their own interests and ideas.

## **The Physical Stuff**

Through gardening, dance and our weekly P.E sessions, we will build upon our vital gross motor skills. Scissor work, collaging with sequins and small cut papers, threading activities, model making and a daily session of the children's favourite 'dough disco' will help to ensure that our fine motor skills get a bit of a work out too. Please continue to remember to send children dressed in their PE kits on Fridays.

**During this half term, in everything we do, we will be teaching the essential personal, social and emotional skills needed to keep our classroom a happy and thriving place to spend our days.**

## **Additional information**

Thank you very much to everyone that shared with us some of the wonderful things you have been getting up to over the half term holiday - please continue to upload any photos of your child's home learning on their journal as it builds up a strong profile of their progress.

Please also continue to send me photos that your child can talk about during 'sharing time' - bringing elements from their home life into school helps children who are often quieter become more willing to talk!

We'd like to introduce you to our new online reading scheme, **Bug Club**. Next week you will receive log in details and there will be a book for you and your child to enjoy together. The 1<sup>st</sup> couple of books will be wordless. The task is to use the pictures to tell the story - this is a vital skill when learning to read. We'll then move on to books with some simple text. Do let us know if you have any issues accessing this. If you'd like to let us know how your child has got on, please send comments to: [laurie.horne-smith@school360.co.uk](mailto:laurie.horne-smith@school360.co.uk)

**Reminders:** As the weather is beginning to turn cold, could you please ensure that your child has a coat, hat, scarf and preferably a pair of mittens rather than gloves. It is incredibly helpful to us and we strongly advise that **all items of clothing and shoes are clearly named**.

Remember I am always here if you have any concerns or questions. You can contact me via email or we can arrange a phone conversation if you would prefer.

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*Pear Class Teacher*