



Year R *Bushmead Primary School*

Autumn Term 2 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Value for December is: RESPECT

Our well-being theme this half term is: LEARN SOMETHING NEW

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have made a wonderful start to our second half term and are extremely proud of how the children are embracing school life.

We have a busy few weeks ahead of us. Maths Day, Christmas lunch, Christmas/Winter Jumper Day and our concerts will be happening during December. We will be sending more information nearer the time, so do please keep checking ClassDojo and your emails.

Our curriculum this half term will continue to be based around stories and will focus on learning about the world around us: people, places and different cultures. We are beginning the first of our 'Saints Weeks' with St. Andrew and learning about Scotland. We have already looked at the first of our festival of lights, Diwali. We continue this by learning about Hanukkah and Christmas. Later in the year we will also focus on Chinese New Year and Eid.

We are very proud of how well our children have settled into learning phonics and the enthusiasm they show in lessons. Please continue to support your child at home with regular practice, using the sheets in the Learning Log as a guide. A few minutes each day going over phonemes, tricky words and segmenting and blending words really does make a huge difference to their confidence levels and progress.

Reading

Our reading in reception has gathered pace this half term, and we have now introduced three 'Guided reading' sessions a week into our curriculum. The children work with an adult in small groups during these sessions and will focus on one book across the week, developing their skills in: **decoding** (sounding and blending words); **prosody** (reading with expression) and **comprehension** (understanding what they have read.)

Reading books will continue to be sent home. We have added the Collins Big Cat books that we use within our Guided reading lessons to our scheme. Now your child will have three books to share at home with you:

1. **A current book from our reading scheme**- these are the books we have already been sending home (Oxford Reading Tree, etc). These are matched to your child's current phonic level.
2. **A Collins Big Cats book**- this is linked to our Little Wandle Phonics scheme, and again matched to your child's current reading level. This will be a physical book and also available to you to access online. The logins have been sent home in the reading packs . Your child will have shared this book previously in school, so should have a good understanding of the text already.
3. **A library book**- this is to be shared by you with your child for pleasure. Please talk about the pictures; make predictions about what might happen; use silly voices; find phonemes and tricky words in the text etc. Listening to stories is incredibly important for children as it allows them to build their vocabulary, understand how stories are built and fosters a love of reading. A comment should be made in the Learning Logs for this book too.

We do ask that water bottles do not go in reading bags please as they can leak. This destroys books, and as you will appreciate, costs the school a great deal of money to replace.

Homework Expectations

A gentle reminder that **ALL** children need to complete **ALL** three pieces of homework every week. The school's expectations are clearly set out in our Homework Policy.

1. **Reading** at least three times a week- each read must be logged in the Learning Log. Staff monitor this weekly.
2. **Phonics Practise**- please use the Learning Log to help support this.
3. **ClassDojo Activity**- this is shared on the class story each Friday. Videos and photos should then be shared with the class teacher by the following Friday.

Names, names, names!

The weather has certainly turned now and it will continue to get colder. We still endeavour to go outside as much as we possibly can during the day, so please make sure your child has a warm coat, gloves and hat. **It is very important that everything is named clearly to help us return stray items.**

And finally, some very exciting news...

We are having a Christmas Concert! This is very exciting for both the children and staff, and over the next few weeks shall be learning the songs for our shows. We will be having two performances and times and ticket information very soon.

Dates and Events

- Wednesday 27th November - **No Pens Day**
 - Week beginning 2nd December - **Maths Week**
 - Thursday 12th December - **Christmas/ Winter Jumper Day**
 - Monday 16th December- **Christmas Concert- PM**
 - Wednesday 18th December- **Christmas Concert- AM**
 - Friday 20th December – **Last day of term**
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- Monday 6th January – **INSET day (staff only)**
 - Tuesday 7th January – **Children return to school**

Curriculum Overview

Phonics

- ★ Learning the phonemes: ff ll ss j v w x y z zz qu sh th ng nk
- ★ Continuing to practise word building and blending
- ★ Learn the tricky words: put, pull, full, as, and, has, his, her, go, no, to, into, she, push, he, of, we, me, be

Maths

- ★ Creating simple patterns with objects.
- ★ Comparing lengths, weights and amounts.
- ★ Counting accuracy
- ★ Looking at number composition to 5.
- ★ Investigating circles, triangles and rectangles.

Skills

- ★ Learning about autumn.
- ★ Learning about celebrations from different cultures and religions- Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas
- ★ Begin to learn about different countries in the UK and associated Saints Days- St. Andrews day.
- ★ Understanding different people celebrate different events and sharing our own experiences
- ★ Finding out all about 'post'- letters, cards, postcards.
- ★ Practising writing our own letters and cards.

PE

- ★ Learning to throw, bounce and pass a ball with control.

Computing

- ★ To learn to take pictures using an iPad.

Music

- ★ Continue to build our singing skills
- ★ Practise holding a pulse when playing instruments

Kind regards,

The Reception Team

Miss Kiff, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Billington, Mrs. Campbell and Miss Kelly

Our Vision:

At Bushmead, children are empowered to be active, confident learners where they are inspired to creative and excel.

