

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all! The children had lots of Christmas news to share when they returned on Monday; they had obviously enjoyed their holidays! They have settled back well, and it has been a busy first week back. Thank you very much for all your kind Christmas cards and gifts. They were very much appreciated.

### Weather

Winter is definitely upon us! As well as a thick winter coat, gloves and a hat would be beneficial to keep your child toasty during the day when they are outside. If your child is unable to do up their coat zip, please can they continue to practice this at home. Thank you!



### Topic Work

We are continuing our year's topic of 'Seize the Season'. This week we have been busy writing thank you cards and learning about the Jewish festival of Hanukkah. Next week we are going to be starting a science topic on 'Materials'. We will be exploring different materials, their properties and how materials can change.

### Literacy

We always enjoy listening to the children read and it is fantastic to see their reading skills developing. Daily reading at home, and the practising of key words, is crucial to help your child's reading development. Thank you for your support with this. Please can bookbags be brought into school on a MONDAY each week.



The children are working hard on their writing skills. We are focusing on:

- Gaining confidence writing independently and 'sounding out' new words,
- Forming all lowercase letters correctly, while sitting them on the line and showing tall (e.g. l, h, b) and small letters (e.g. a, o, e). When ready your child will then be working on the formation of uppercase letters,
- A clear finger space between words,
- Beginning to use a capital letter and full stop to mark the start and end of a sentence,
- Building a bank of key words they can spell correctly e.g. the, and, went, was...



## Maths

In Maths this half term we will be concentrating on:

- Lots and lots of counting, forwards and backwards and starting from different points e.g. starting on 67 and counting backwards,
- Counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and linking this to real life,
- 2D shape - naming, exploring properties and sorting,
- Addition - Exploring different strategies when adding e.g. near doubles (6+7), adding with 9 (7+9)...
- Doubles and halves,
- Reading and writing numbers as words - one, two, three...
- Reciting and ordering the days of the week and months of the year.

## Other Reminders

The bell rings at 8.50am for the start of the day. Please can your child arrive promptly, as lateness is very disruptive, not only for the child who is late but also for the class as a whole. Thank you!

As you can see, it is going to be another busy half term! If you have any questions then please don't hesitate to come and talk to us early before the bell, or at the end of the day.

Best wishes,

Miss Tingay and Mrs Johnson