

News from the Early Years Team

January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all! We hope that you had a fabulous Christmas holiday with your children. On behalf of the team, we would like to say a huge thank for your generous gifts and cards. We are now looking ahead to a busy and productive 2018!

The theme the children have chosen is **Real Life Superheroes** and later in the term we will focus on **Chinese New Year** which is celebrated on 16 February and is the Year of the Dog. We will, of course, continue to learn about seasons using our real-life experiences of **Winter** such as going on winter walks and exploring ice in our outdoor area.

Real Life Superheroes

The children have chosen to learn about those people who help us in an emergency: firefighters, paramedics, doctors, nurses and police officers. We have created a fire station role-play area and this will later change to a police station.

We will also consider all of the people who help us at school including teachers, teaching assistants, headteacher, caretaker, office staff and midday supervisors. We will choose a few to interview about their jobs. We will spend time exploring how our friends help us and how we can make sure that we are being a good friend to others. We will turn our attention to home and consider the many ways that parents, grandparents and wider families and friends may help us there, and how we can help them in return.



We are looking for people to come and chat to the children about their jobs to help support their learning. If you or someone you know is willing to come give a very short talk and answer a few questions, it would be greatly appreciated. Please come and let us know as soon as possible, if you are interested.

Chinese New Year



We will search for England and China on maps of the world and consider how to travel between the two places. We will explore the country and culture of China by finding similarities and differences with our own surroundings and lives. The children will enjoy exploring Chinese food and customs as well as learning about how Chinese New Year is celebrated. In addition to this we learn to write Chinese characters, make Chinese dragons and dance to Chinese music. **The children (along with KS1) will be performing a dragon dance to parents and family on Friday 9 February at 2.45pm. We would love for you to come and watch.**

Read Write Inc.

The children are doing very well with their reading so this term we will begin teaching the long vowel sounds (Speed Sounds Set 2). We will practise reading and spelling words with these sounds in them. We are learning to read and spell more red words. We will also reinforce writing in sentences using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We are encouraging the children to 'have a go' when writing independently.



Number, Shape, Space and Measures

During this term the children will be introduced to numbers within 20. We will learn to read, write and order the numbers and say what is one more or less than a given number. We will explore estimating amounts to 20 and check by counting accurately. We will continue to consolidate our understanding of addition and begin to learn how to subtract, initially by physically taking objects away.



Show and Tell

Your child should bring an item linked to one of this term's themes. It might be a photograph, book, object, model, picture, painting, home-made book, or piece of writing... The possibilities are endless but please ensure that toys remain at home.



It may help to talk with your child about their chosen item beforehand. Here are a few things you might like to discuss:

- ▶ What is it and why have you chosen it? How is it linked to our theme?
- ▶ Where did you find it? How did you make it? How does it work?
- ▶ For a story book – What is it about? Why do you like it? What happens at the beginning, middle and end?
- ▶ For a non-fiction book – What is it about? Which is your favourite part? How can you use the contents page to find your favourite part?

Can you help us?

If you have anything you would like to donate for our fire station or our police station role-play area they would be greatly received, in particular we are in need of an old phone. Thank you in advance.

Wellies!

When exploring the outdoor classroom, the children will need a pair of Wellies in school to wear instead of their smart school shoes. Please send in a named pair of boots that your children can keep in school during the week. The boots will come home in the spring.

Thank you for all of your support. We hope that you and your child have a great third term. Please do not hesitate to come and see us with any queries or concerns, no matter how small.

Miss Bytheway and Mrs Hudson
The Early Years Team