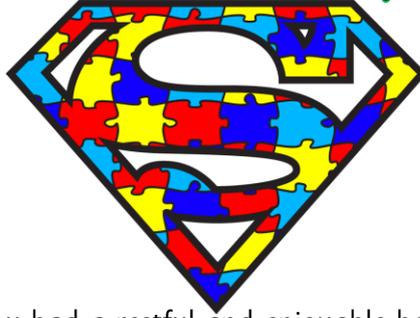


News from the Early Years Team



November 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to all. We hope that you had a restful and enjoyable holiday, and join us in looking forward to the run up to Christmas and all the excitement that it entails!

Our new theme '**Superheroes**' and during this term we will also focus on Remembrance Day and Diwali.

Superheroes

We will begin our topic by looking at superheroes we know and love. We will consider the way they look, speak, how they help others and what super powers they may have. We will look at good characters and bad characters we know, why and how they differ and why they don't work together.

We will move onto creating our own superhero character with special powers and naming it. We will consider what our superhero will wear, how they look, why they are 'good' and how they help others.

We will be finishing this learning by creating our own superhero capes based on the children's designs of superheroes.

Real life superheroes in our community

We will consider all of the people who help us at school including teachers, teaching assistants, head teacher, caretaker, office staff, midday supervisors, and 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 really good friend to others.

We will then turn our attention to home and consider the many ways that our parents, grandparents, and wider families and friends may help us there, and how we can help them in return.

We will turn our attention away from home and school and think about the many people that help us in other ways, such as postal workers, shopkeepers, hairdressers, doctors, nurses, dentists, bakers, mechanics.

We will also investigate those people who help us in an emergency – firefighters, paramedics and police officers.

We are looking for people to come and chat to the children about their jobs to help support their learning of 'Real life superheroes'. 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.



Christmas

We are going to explore how Christmas is celebrated in different countries around the world. We will be busy making Christmas crafts, including tree decorations, cards and calendars, alongside rehearsals for our Foundation Stage and Key Stage One production of '*The Christmas Story*'.



Performances will be **Tuesday 6 December at 1:30pm** and **Wednesday 7 December at 9:30am**. You will be informed of your child's role and costume requirements in due course.

Reading and Writing

We will continue to teach reading and writing through the phonics scheme, *Read, Write Inc.* We will be revising the sounds already taught from Speed Sounds Set 1 (SS1), and begin teaching new sounds (long vowels) from Speed Sounds Set 2 (SS2) as appropriate. The children will now be taught in two separate groups (Miss Henson will teach SS2 and Mrs Bussey will teach SS1). The children will continue to practise blending sounds together to read short words and learn red words.

Please remember Reading Workshop 2: Thursday 10 November at 9:00am and 6:30pm.

Number and shape

During this term children will also revise counting, recognising, writing, and ordering numbers 0-20 and beyond. We will learn about the names and properties of both 2D and 3D shapes, programme 'beebots' using positional language, use our knowledge of number to calculate addition and subtraction problems, as well as look at reading the time on an analogue clock and introduce money!

Can you help us?

Thank you to all parents who have been collecting 'crafty bits' and 'junk' for use in the classroom – your help is greatly appreciated, please keep sending in recycling bits. In particular we would love any corks, egg cartons and kitchen roll tubes.

Role play Area

This term the children will have access two areas:

- **Superhero Den! (will change into a super Christmas den)**
- **Home corner**

If you have anything at home (or work!) that you could donate or lend us for either of these areas, or know of someone else who can, it would be greatly appreciated, such as...

| Superhero Den! | Super Christmas den | Home corner |
|---|---|---|
| Children's magazines Comics Books Superhero posters Material for capes and eye masks Unwanted aeroplane eye masks (eye holes will be cut out) | Wrapping paper Unwanted/used Christmas cards Tags Tinsel Envelopes Gift bags Toy brochures/catalogues | Newspapers Unwanted mobile phones/landline phones Plastic utensils Unwanted TV remotes Empty shampoo bottles Empty washing up liquid bottles |
| Anything else you can think of! | | |

Show and Tell

'Show and Tell' proved popular last term with the children, and your child is again invited to take part on the day designated to their group.

Once again your child should bring just one item on the day allocated to their group (see table below). This item should be linked to the theme, which this term is ***Superheroes***. It might be a photograph, book, artefact, object, collage, picture, model, 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, 'Superheroes'?
- 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?

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Friday 11 November | Tigers |
| Friday 18 November | Lions |
| Friday 25 November | Pumas |

Requests

- P.E. this term will be gymnastics, so outdoor PE kits may remain at home. Children will **not** require footwear for indoor PE, as this is done in bare feet.
- Please ensure that **all of your child's clothing is named**, including coats and PE kits.

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.

The Early Years Team
Miss Henson and Mrs Bussey