

## Reception Class Newsletter 26th September 2014



Thank you for all the comments you have been writing in the planners, sharing with us things you have been doing at home. We do check the planners every day and even though we might not always get time to write a reply we do read them! Please, please do not put water bottles into reading bags, as we have already had some leaking bottles and soggy books and planners! If your child cannot manage to carry their water bottle and other things, and we know it can be tricky, perhaps their water bottle could be in a carrier bag, which should make it easier for them to hold.



Over the next week or so your child will be given a 'reading' book to 'read' at home with you. For the majority of children the 'reading' books do not have words so don't panic! Please continue to use the planner to comment on your reading experiences with your child. There will be a little explanation note to help you stuck into the planner. As the children begin to recognise and then blend sounds together, the books will eventually contain words. Being able to read is more than just reading the words on the page there are other skills and strategies that the children need to learn. Using the pictures to tell your own story is a very important skill.

At Excalibur we teach the children to read during shared story experiences, in our daily Read Write Inc lessons and in small groups of no more than 6 in a weekly guided reading session. I am in the process of putting the children into their guided reading groups. Once that is done they will begin their weekly group reading session. The book they read together in this group is then also sent home for them to share with you. There is sometimes a follow-up question or suggestion for them to talk about. At the Read Write Inc. meeting Mrs Ling will explain that the children need to keep re-reading a story they know so they become fluent and can read it with expression and without the need to sound out words. The more they read it the more they can do this. Although this guided reading book is kept for the week we expect the children to read it a number of times.



During Read Write Inc this week we have added two new sounds i and n and focused on blending the sounds we have learnt to 'read' simple words such as dad, mat or sat. As I mentioned last week we are learning the rhymes to form these letters correctly. If your child is interested in sharing these rhymes with you then it is

often more fun and exciting to write things in more unusual ways such as with pots of water and large brushes on the ground, with paint and your finger, in shaving foam, in steam on glass or flour on a table.

This week we have met 'Fred' the skeleton, not to be confused with 'Fred' the frog who is part of our Read Write Inc. lessons! We have enjoyed singing and dancing 'the skeleton dance' and learning the names of different bones in our bodies. As well as talking about our skeleton we have talked about our senses and used them on a special walk around school. We used our sense of taste on Tuesday, when we made mini apple crumbles. They were so popular that everyone gave them a thumbs up! We looked at our faces and how we are similar and different. We used the computer mouse and a mirror to have a go at drawing our own faces. We have continued to read, sing about and order numbers 1-10 and beyond if we can. One thing lots of children are finding tricky is counting backwards from 10 to 0. Any singing/games you can do to help would be fantastic.



On Wednesday 15th October, weather permitting; we are planning to take the children on a short walk in the local area to look at the changing trees and to collect natural materials. I will send a letter about this next week, but we are looking for helpers to accompany us so if you are free that morning please let us know as soon as possible. Sorry but we are unable to accommodate younger siblings or pushchairs.

Please return your completed Read Write Inc homework folders on Wednesday and don't forget to sign the parent's comments box.

Don't forget Reception lunch on Tuesday 7th October at 11.40 am.

Congratulations to our two stars of the week Bojena and Ben and to Calum and Evie who sat on our special VIP to have their lunch today.

Many thanks,

Mrs Rogers and Mrs Newbould