

Reception Class Newsletter – 7th November 2014



Welcome back to a most exciting half term which will end in 7 weeks' time with the excitement and wonder that Christmas brings and our special retelling of the Christmas Story. You will hear more about that a little later in the month. It is going to be very busy!

We have had a lovely time in Reception this week; the highlight of the week was our bonfire party around our real bonfire! We invited the Year 1's and 2's to join us and enjoyed hot chocolate and chocolate bonfire pears! All the children were very sensible and it was a really special event. We don't usually have so much chocolate in one week, and it was lovely to see so many of them eat the pear under the chocolate and sprinkles too! A big thank you goes out to Mr Burgess who kindly built our bonfire for us. As well as being an exciting event it has fed into our learning this week as we talked about a range of things from different materials to fire safety. There were lots of different sounds and smells as well just watching what happens as wood burns.



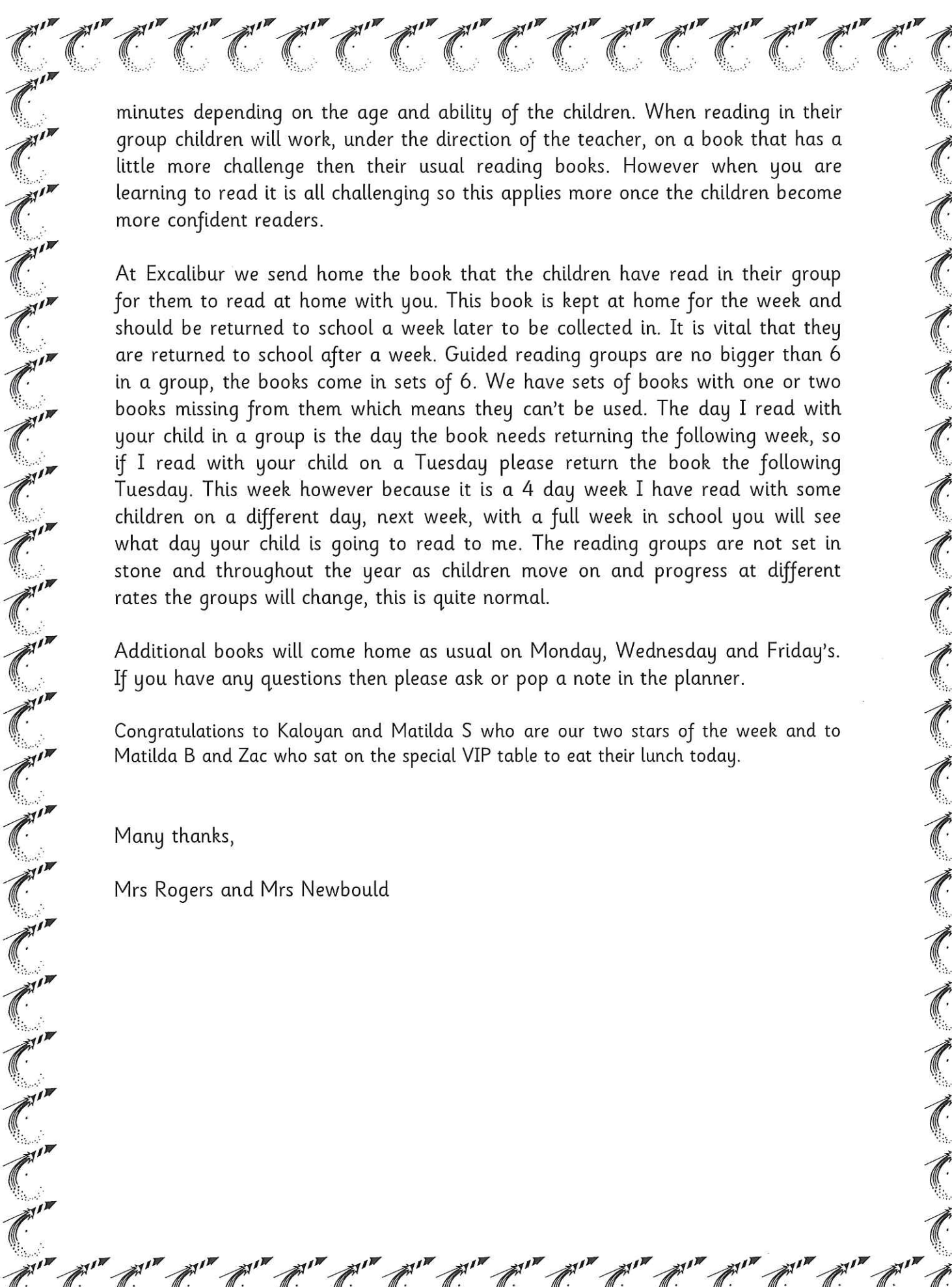
We have sung some lovely songs about fireworks and bonfires and some of us have made some super 3D rockets using cones and cylinders which we will find out more about next week.

A big thank you to Ava's Mum who was our mystery reader this week and shared with us another super Julia Donaldson story, this time it was the turn of 'Superworm'.



We have introduced 2 new sounds r and j during Read Write Inc. this week and we have been really impressed with how most children are able to remember so many of the sounds we have done so far. Please don't worry if your child doesn't remember them all. There is lots of repetition and recapping in Read write Inc. and we are aware of those children who need a little more time to learn them. As we keep stressing everyone learns at their own rate.

I have been reading with the children this week in small groups, known as 'guided reading' groups. This is where we group children of similar ability and read with them in a short focused session which can last from a few minutes up to 20/25



minutes depending on the age and ability of the children. When reading in their group children will work, under the direction of the teacher, on a book that has a little more challenge than their usual reading books. However when you are learning to read it is all challenging so this applies more once the children become more confident readers.

At Excalibur we send home the book that the children have read in their group for them to read at home with you. This book is kept at home for the week and should be returned to school a week later to be collected in. It is vital that they are returned to school after a week. Guided reading groups are no bigger than 6 in a group, the books come in sets of 6. We have sets of books with one or two books missing from them which means they can't be used. The day I read with your child in a group is the day the book needs returning the following week, so if I read with your child on a Tuesday please return the book the following Tuesday. This week however because it is a 4 day week I have read with some children on a different day, next week, with a full week in school you will see what day your child is going to read to me. The reading groups are not set in stone and throughout the year as children move on and progress at different rates the groups will change, this is quite normal.

Additional books will come home as usual on Monday, Wednesday and Friday's. If you have any questions then please ask or pop a note in the planner.

Congratulations to Kaloyan and Matilda S who are our two stars of the week and to Matilda B and Zac who sat on the special VIP table to eat their lunch today.

Many thanks,

Mrs Rogers and Mrs Newbould