

Reception Class weekly newsletter – 27th March 2015



We have continued with our Traditional Tales theme with the children deciding that they wanted to base their learning this week around the story of 'The Gingerbread Man' followed by 'Sleeping Beauty' next week. We have been enjoying looking at the different versions of the story and joining in retelling them with great enthusiasm! We made our own delicious gingerbread on Tuesday but they were a little warm to eat so we had them for snack on Wednesday afternoon. I think everyone agreed they were delicious! We have ordered events in the story and today counted the number of legs in the story. Some of us went on to carry out some problem solving where they worked out which characters could be seen if the total of legs was 8 e.g. 1 cow, the old man and the old woman or 1 cow and 1 pig. I am sure you get the idea!

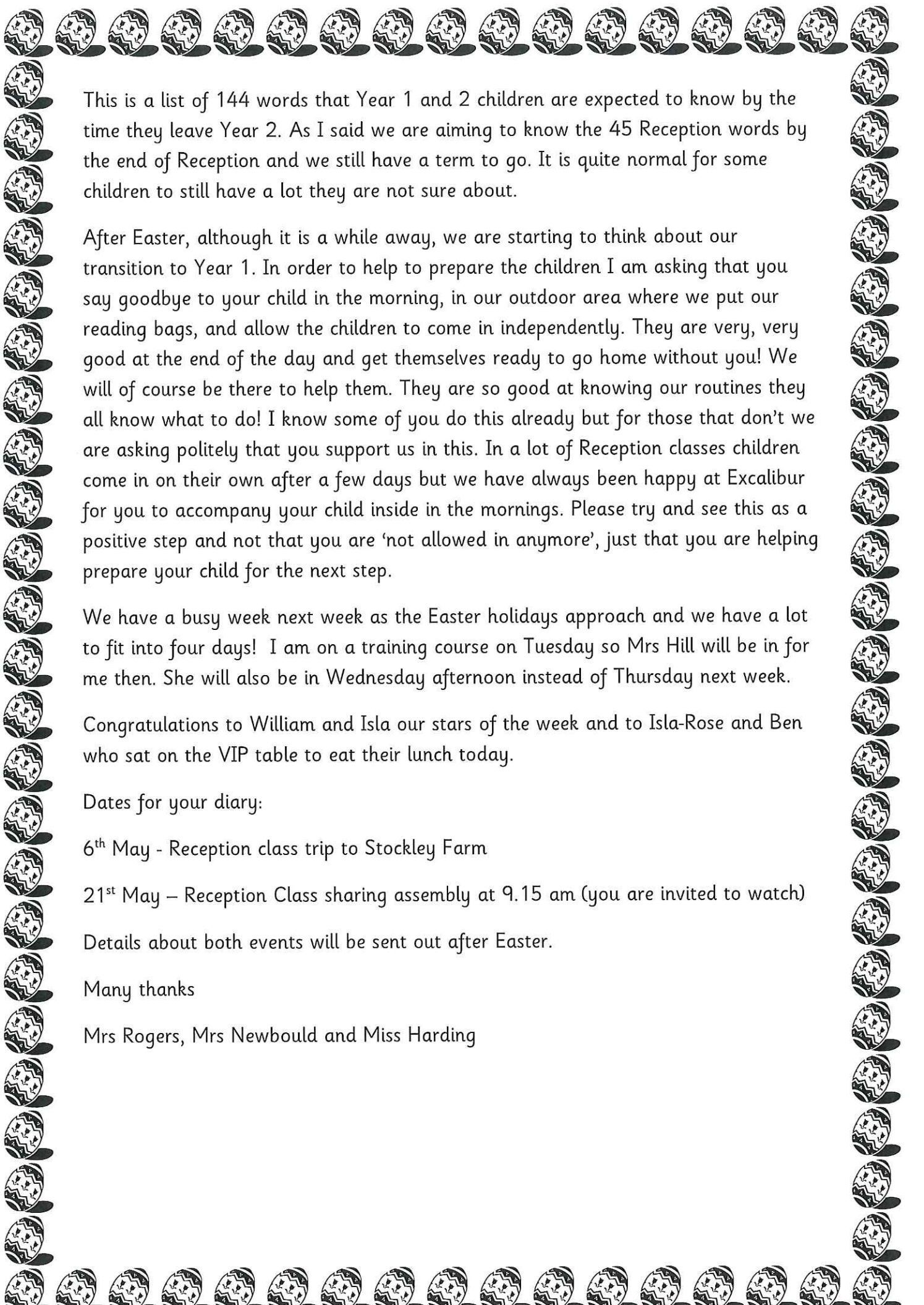
Thank you to Anya's Mum who was a super mystery reader this week. She managed to read 3 stories as well! Thank you Anya's Mum!



Some of us have been using dice with spots so if you have any games that use a dice it would be great if you had time over Easter to play some. We have been trying to recognise what number we have thrown from the pattern of the spots rather than by counting the spots and then trying to explain how we know. For example; "I knew it was 6 because there was 3 and 3" or "it was 5 because there was 4 and then 1 in the middle."

Our tricky/high frequency word key rings are now rather fat, which is fantastic. Our aim is that they will soon have on them all 45 words that are the national expectation for children to learn by the time they move into Year 1. Some children already have 45 words on the key ring, it depends when your child started. I know that there are some really tricky words on there that take longer to stick. They are all doing really, really well with them so keep going, you are doing a great job!

Sometimes you have to be a bit more creative when learning them such as making them from magnetic letters, alphabet pasta etc. or writing them on a post-it and putting it somewhere prominent. A friend of mine even put said on a post-it in the downstairs toilet! Everyone in the family could wear a post-it with a tricky word on and spend part of the day calling each other by the word they are wearing rather than their name. It might sound really silly but sometimes an alternative approach is needed! Some children have had additional words added from the next list of words.

A decorative border of Easter eggs with various patterns (wavy lines, stars, zig-zags) surrounds the text on all four sides.

This is a list of 144 words that Year 1 and 2 children are expected to know by the time they leave Year 2. As I said we are aiming to know the 45 Reception words by the end of Reception and we still have a term to go. It is quite normal for some children to still have a lot they are not sure about.

After Easter, although it is a while away, we are starting to think about our transition to Year 1. In order to help to prepare the children I am asking that you say goodbye to your child in the morning, in our outdoor area where we put our reading bags, and allow the children to come in independently. They are very, very good at the end of the day and get themselves ready to go home without you! We will of course be there to help them. They are so good at knowing our routines they all know what to do! I know some of you do this already but for those that don't we are asking politely that you support us in this. In a lot of Reception classes children come in on their own after a few days but we have always been happy at Excalibur for you to accompany your child inside in the mornings. Please try and see this as a positive step and not that you are 'not allowed in anymore', just that you are helping prepare your child for the next step.

We have a busy week next week as the Easter holidays approach and we have a lot to fit into four days! I am on a training course on Tuesday so Mrs Hill will be in for me then. She will also be in Wednesday afternoon instead of Thursday next week.

Congratulations to William and Isla our stars of the week and to Isla-Rose and Ben who sat on the VIP table to eat their lunch today.

Dates for your diary:

6th May - Reception class trip to Stockley Farm

21st May – Reception Class sharing assembly at 9.15 am (you are invited to watch)

Details about both events will be sent out after Easter.

Many thanks

Mrs Rogers, Mrs Newbould and Miss Harding