

## Reception Class Newsletter 25th September 2015



You may have noticed that we have another pair of hands working with us. We are delighted to welcome Miss Kirby to our team. Some of you may recognise her from her work as a lifeguard or from teaching swimming lessons at Alsager Leisure Centre. As Miss Kirby is a trainee I would ask that you direct any questions or concerns that you have to myself and Mrs Newbould.

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 in their hand, 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. Could I also politely ask that your child has a bag for school that is larger than an A4 piece of paper. Some of the ruck-sacks are lovely but a little on the small size! Today's homework folders couldn't fit into some of them. Perhaps they could be used to carry your child's snack and water bottle instead. The Excalibur book bags are the ideal size.

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. When we hold our Read Write Inc. we 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 three new sounds t, i and n. 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.



We used our sense of taste on Tuesday, when we made mini apple crumbles. We picked the apples from the trees we have at school, then the children helped Mrs Newbould to chop the apples and make the crumble mix. The smell was delicious!

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.



We have been thinking about how our eyes work and Mrs Choi who is our Reception class governor talked to the children about her job as an optician, how our eyes work and how we can take care of our eyes. We have been using our ears and eyes as we talked about different vehicles that we see on the road and we have begun thinking about staying safe as we cross the road. The children have also been investigating how different vehicles travel down a ramp

On Friday 16th 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.

Congratulations to our two stars of the week Jenson and Ethan and to Ethan and Jacob C who sat on our special VIP to have their lunch today.

And finally ... we would be very grateful if you could send a baby photo in of your child for a special book that we are making. Because they are going into a book we are unable to return them. However if it is a photograph that we are unable to keep we can photocopy it. Could I ask that the photographs are no larger than 7x5 or it will be a very big book!

Many thanks,

Mrs Rogers and Mrs Newbould