

Reception Class Newsletter – 6th November 2015



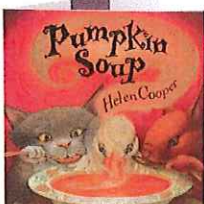
Welcome back to a most exciting half term which will end in 7 weeks' time with the excitement and wonder that Christmas brings and our special retelling of the Christmas Story. You will hear more about that a little later in the month. It is going to be a very busy time!

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.

Thank you for your support if you were able to attend the Read Write Inc. and 'meet the teacher' meeting this week, it was lovely to see to you all. I hope you found it enjoyable and informative. There was a lot of information given from both myself and Mrs Ling so if you need further clarification or explanation, please ask. As I mentioned I have attached is a sheet of 'wow' moments for you to celebrate your child's achievements and then send into school as and when there is something to celebrate. Examples might include counting to a particular number, learning to ride a bike without stabilizers, a sporting achievement, recognising simple words as you're at home or out and about. Wow moments that are sent in, are put into our special 'wow' moment box for us to read and celebrate with the class. They form part of our records of your child's achievements and development.



We have enjoyed the stories 'Pumpkin Soup', 'A Pipkin of Pepper' and 'Delicious' by the author Helen Cooper. We made our own tasty pumpkin and potato soup. We all loved dipping

bread into the soup. We listened to the story of 'The Enormous Turnip' and made up our own stories called 'The Enormous Pumpkin'. We performed our stories for each other to watch. We had some fantastic narrators and actors. We clearly have a class who love to perform!

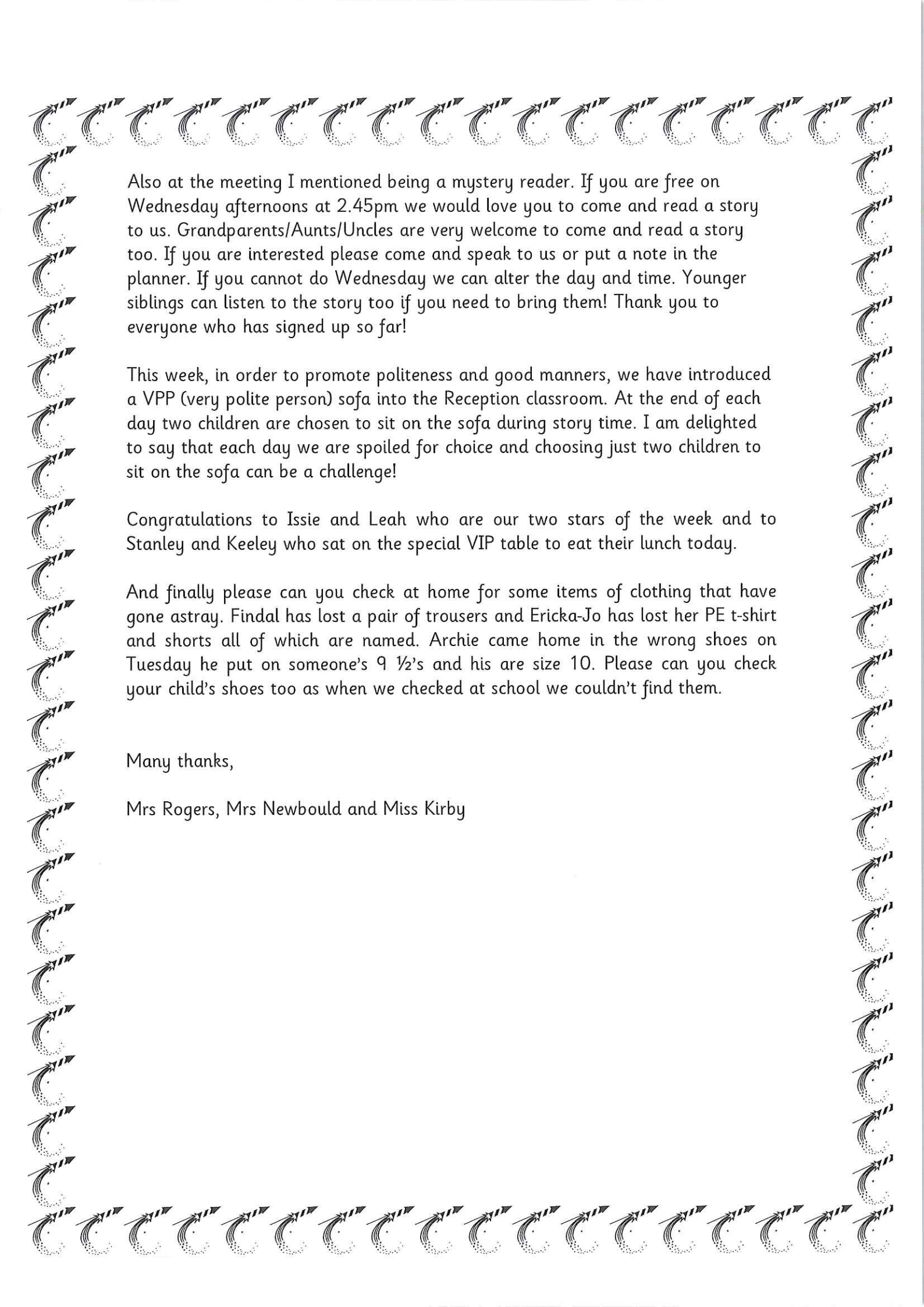
We have introduced 2 new sounds r and sh during Read Write Inc. this week and we have been really impressed with how most children are able to remember so many of the sounds we have done so far. Please don't worry if your child doesn't remember them all. There is lots of repetition and recapping in Read 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 continuing to read with the children this week in small groups, known as 'guided reading' groups. I mentioned this at the meeting but just want to clarify a few things. 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!

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.

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Also at the meeting I mentioned being a mystery reader. If you are free on Wednesday afternoons at 2.45pm we would love you to come and read a story to us. Grandparents/Aunts/Uncles are very welcome to come and read a story too. If you are interested please come and speak to us or put a note in the planner. If you cannot do Wednesday we can alter the day and time. Younger siblings can listen to the story too if you need to bring them! Thank you to everyone who has signed up so far!

This week, in order to promote politeness and good manners, we have introduced a VPP (very polite person) sofa into the Reception classroom. At the end of each day two children are chosen to sit on the sofa during story time. I am delighted to say that each day we are spoiled for choice and choosing just two children to sit on the sofa can be a challenge!

Congratulations to Issie and Leah who are our two stars of the week and to Stanley and Keeley who sat on the special VIP table to eat their lunch today.

And finally please can you check at home for some items of clothing that have gone astray. Findal has lost a pair of trousers and Ericka-Jo has lost her PE t-shirt and shorts all of which are named. Archie came home in the wrong shoes on Tuesday he put on someone's 9 ½'s and his are size 10. Please can you check your child's shoes too as when we checked at school we couldn't find them.

Many thanks,

Mrs Rogers, Mrs Newbould and Miss Kirby

Wow! Moment

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Signed:

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