

# FAMILY UNIT

## Spring 1 Newsletter

Happy New Year! Despite the outbreak of Chicken Pox which has affected so many of you over the Christmas period it sounds like you have all had a good break and the children have very quickly settled back into the routines at school. This half term we welcome back Mrs Kirsty Dodsworth from her maternity leave, she will work in the unit on Mondays and Tuesdays. We also welcome several new children into our fantastic Pre-Nursery and Jayden and Olivia have made the exciting leap from Pre-Nursery into Nursery. We also have the pleasure of supporting two students on placements this half term, the familiar face of Amy Dudley working with the Reception children and Abby Clarkson who is training to work with Nursery children and will be working in Pre-Nursery this half term.

### OUR LEARNING

This half term we are learning about our five senses through fun, hands-on activities to compliment the children's own interests. In Pre-Nursery, the children will be focusing on counting and recognising numbers as well as learning to thread, complete jigsaws and build towers to support their developing understanding of shape and space.

Our Themed Week this half term is focused on Music and Storytelling. If you possess any musical talent, please let us know, as we would love to welcome you in to our classroom that week to perform for us. If music is not your thing, we encourage you to join us for one of our 'secret storyteller' slots.

In an article for The Guardian, Pie Corbett wrote: **"Children who are told stories are the ones who first form abstract concepts across the curriculum – in other words, being read to makes you brainy. The best writers in the class are always those who are avid readers and those who are read to."**

The idea behind the 'secret storyteller' is that each session a surprise parent/ carer/ relative comes in to share their child's favourite bedtime story with us. Please complete the form attached to state your availability and we will give you a slot! We also invite you to come and work with us during the themed week for our open morning on 31<sup>st</sup> January.

The topics we pick allow the children opportunities to meet the vast array of objectives appropriate to them in the Early Years curriculum. Progress last half term was fantastic overall and we look forward to sharing your child's successes with you at our next Parent's Evening in February.

### HOME LEARNING

Please keep using our email address [familyunit@micklefieldceprimary.co.uk](mailto:familyunit@micklefieldceprimary.co.uk) to let us know how your child is making progress at home. We are beginning to create a display in our home corner of your family photos that you have been sending us from over Christmas to support your children in talking about families, people who are special to them and the activities they enjoy doing out of school. Thank you to those who have already sent us pictures.

Thank you to those who are supporting your child with their maths homework and helping them develop their phonic knowledge and reading. The children benefit greatly from this extra input and your support is appreciated greatly.



## **REMINDERS**

### **Water bottles**

Water improves concentration, learning, health, wellbeing and happiness! Please make sure your child has a water bottle, containing only water, in school every day.

### **Milk**

Once your child has turned 5, milk is no longer provided free of charge. Should you wish your child to continue having milk in school, please speak to the office to organise payment.

### **PE**

Please make sure your Reception child has their PE kit **every day**, shorts/tracksuit bottoms should be navy blue or black and t-shirts should be plain white.

**Please, please, please** ensure all clothing is named!

### **Personal Belongings**

Another reminder about children leaving their own belongings at home, please. Toys get very easily lost or broken when they are brought to school and it causes much unnecessary distress when these things go missing so unless you have had communication about a 'show and tell' session, please ensure your child doesn't bring anything into school.

### **Nut allergies**

Just a reminder that there are children in school with severe nut allergies as well as Mrs Cobb in the Family Unit. Packed lunch and treats for birthdays must be checked carefully to ensure they are **completely nut-free**.

### **Library Books**

Please remember to send the library book your child chose back to school on a Wednesday so it can be changed.

### **Penny Pledges**

We are very grateful for your support in collecting any spare change to go towards buying resources to support your children's interests as well as buying our biscuit treats for special snack and chat times. Please keep feeding Bertie and Clarence the Cat!

**And finally...** please support your child in answering the 'question of the day' when they come into the classroom in the morning. This activity is a very useful 'self-registration' tool which encourages younger children to recognise their name but is also there to hopefully stimulate a conversation, reaction, interest, curiosity, or simply make you laugh!

## **DATES**

Music & Storytelling Themed Week **29<sup>th</sup> January- 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

Open morning **31<sup>st</sup> January**

Parent's Themed Week assembly and Child of Achievement **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2.15pm**

### **HALF TERM**

Parent's Evening **21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

