The Curious Koalas' News
By Mrs Bond



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you have had a wonderful half term break. It was lovely to meet with you before the holidays in our pupil progress meetings and I hope you found the meeting useful. If you do have any further questions or would like to find out more about how best to support your child at home, please feel free to come and see me at the end of the school day. We have had a great start to our new half term and the children have shown some real excitement for our new topics. Please see the other side of this letter to find out more about what we will be learning over the next few weeks.

A few reminders...

Water bottles: Each day your child will need their water bottle in school. This should contain still, plain water only (not flavoured water or juice). Thank you.

Naming uniform: Please ensure your child's name is written in all of their uniform, especially those that are taken off during the school day (jumpers, coats, PE jackets). This helps us get any lost clothing back to the correct child easily.

PE days: Going forwards, Year 1 PE days have now changed and are on a **Tuesday** and **Friday**.

Reading at home: In school we aim to listen to your child read at least three times a week. Having extra opportunities to practise their reading at home allows them to build their confidence and fluency. Even a couple of pages a night makes a huge difference. If you do need any advice on how best to support your child at home, we are always happy to help.

Dates for your diary:

*Monday 30th November: Children will take part in decorating the Christmas tree as a school family.
* Thursday 3rd December: Art Gallery after school. Parents and children are invited to attend.
* Friday 4th December: Christmas Hygge family event
* Tuesday 8th December: Year 1 Nativity in Church at 10am.
* Friday 11th December: Christmas jumper day, Christmas dinner day and Christmas den day.
* Wednesday 16th December: Year 1 Christmas party in the afternoon (children are invited to wear their party clothes).
Friday 18th December: Spanish Nativity at 9:15 in Church led by our Year 2 Spanish Club. School closes for the Christmas holidays at 2pm.

Our learning muscle this half term is...



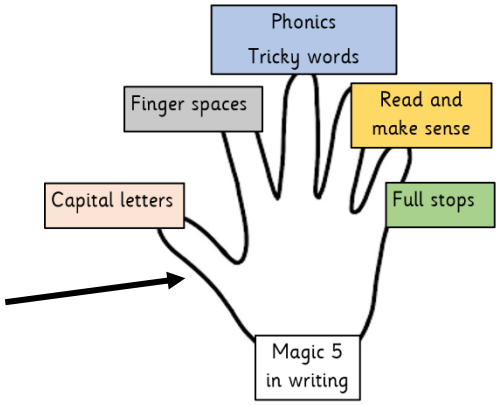
Concentration

Within the classroom and during collective worship, we will be sharing strategies to support the children in stretching their 'concentration' learning muscle. This learning muscle goes hand in hand with our 'managing distractions' learning muscle. We have already spotted some excellent concentration in our learning this week!

Our learning this half term….

Literacy

This half term our focus text is 'Smartest Giant in Town' by Julia Donaldson. The children will have been 'inspired' by the story in the first week and will write sentences about the story. In the next few weeks, the children will be working as a class family to plan how we could make alterations to the story by changing some of the animals and the problems that the characters face. This is part of their creation week. A big focus is on including the 'Magic 5'.

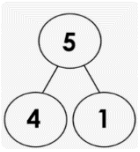


How can I help at home?

Practise writing numbers (ensuring they are the right way around).
Reading and writing numbers within 100. Especially numbers in the 20s, 30s and 50s (as these numbers children find more difficult).
Counting forwards and backwards within 100.

Maths

Within our maths lessons children will continue to become confident with their recognition of numbers to 100 and counting within 100. This half term we will be comparing objects using the words 'more', 'fewer' and 'equal'. Children will also be using a part part whole model to partition numbers within 10.



Foundation subjects

History: Our topic this half term is 'The Victorians', we will be learning what life was like for a Victorian child, exploring their homes, toys, food and school. We will use some historical artefacts to bring the learning to life!

Design and technology: In our DT topic this half term we will be designing and creating our own moving pictures using levers and sliders to allow our pictures to move. If you have any books at home with sliders and levers you might like to explore how these move!

Science: As scientists, children will be continuing to develop their knowledge of common animals. They will learn how to categorise the animals into mammals, birds, fish, reptiles or amphibians. Children will develop in confidence when comparing animals and begin to develop their understanding of which common animals are carnivores, herbivores or omnivores.

Religious Education: We will be exploring the big question: 'Who made the world?' We will be exploring the Christian story of creation and thinking about what this story tells Christians about what God is like. We will also be thinking about how we can show thanks for the wonderful creation of our world.

PE: The children will continue to have two sessions of PE within the week: one will be led by the Year 1 teachers where the focus will be on throwing and catching skills. Their second session of PE will be led by Mr Price and the children will be developing their gymnastics skills.

RHE: Our work on our 'One Life' programme continues, with the focus on 'Our response system', 'Our bodies' and 'Being Safe'. The children will learn that all feelings and emotions are normal and how we can manage and respond to them.