

Dear Parents,

What another busy week we have had in Reception class!

The children have continued to be excited by scientific process, so this week we took inspiration from Seb's fantastic drawing of a volcano to look at what happens when a volcano erupts. We listened to a video clip from Nina and the neurons who told us all about the bubbly liquid called lava. Harvey then told the class that when lava cools it turns into



rock. We were all very impressed by this and got very excited when the vinegar added to our mixture suddenly began to bubble and rise up out of the top of our mountain!

Later in the week Charlie found some ice in the outside area and asked if he could bring it in to put on the heater to see if it would melt. He was very excited to see at lunchtime that his ice was now a pool of water! Next week we are going to take this learning a little further and find the quickest way to melt ice.

Our maths focus for this week has been measuring length. We began the week focussing on the language of size and used it to describe and compare different objects. We then introduced the children to non-standard units of measurement as a way of finding out the length of things and had great fun using the wooden blocks to see how tall we were. There was an adult led task in which the children used small cubes to measure and record the



length of different objects before identifying which was the longest, shortest or the same. We also found lots of other non-standard units around the classroom we could use to measure things including straws, duplo block, link and learn clips and pieces of train track. Fantastic work Reception!



In phonics this week we have been revisiting some of the first digraph sounds covered **ai, ee, ie, oa, or, ue, ch, sh, qu, oi and ou**, and have been segmenting words into sounds for writing. Now that the sounds have been covered we continue to go over them but we now look at putting them more into context. This week we have been learning what a sentence is, how we write them and what we need to remember to include: *a capital letter at the start, finger spaces and a full stop at the end*. This is a very difficult concept for children to understand, and it takes quite a while to build up this skill of writing more than one word at a time. However we have been very impressed with the children's attempts this week. In their busy books they had to write a sentence about a picture starting with the words **I can see a ...**

In other activities around the classroom this week some children have been busy creating lots of different things in the junk modelling area from rings, to jewellery boxes and rabbit catchers. Nell and Emilia were very keen to make a kite and spent a long time doing this together showing great team work. Lots of children have been keen to draw, some enjoying using stencils to create their pictures and others have made some fabulous transient art work including this fantastic one by Harriet of a girl at the beach.



Thank you very much to the parents who have returned feedback forms we sent a couple of weeks ago, we really appreciate the comments and suggestions. One comment we had was regarding the opportunity to see Learning Journeys. We intend to send your child's learning journey home for you to view sometime during this half term to allow you to catch up on what has been happening since you saw it a Parents Evening. When it comes home could we ask that it be returned to school quickly as we are always adding to them.

This morning we had our first big practice of our Christmas play in the hall and every child has been given a part to play in the nativity. We have lots of costumes in school so there is no need for you to provide one, although we may ask for specific items to be worn to accompany them. You will receive a small note about this in book bags if required. The main performance happens at the Galtres Centre on **Monday 10th December**, however we invite Grandparents into school on the morning of the **10th at 10am** to come and watch the children in their dress rehearsal. We hope as many grandparents as possible can attend.

We have been compiling a wish list for improving some of the equipment in our outside area and have asked FOAS for some support in achieving this. However, as a class, we will also be doing our own fundraising event and any money raised will go towards the purchase of some of these new items. We will be making and selling items on a Christmas stall at the end of each day by the main gate and will be selling items such as, mini Christmas cakes and biscuits, reindeer food, dog biscuits, and bird feeders. The stall will begin the week beginning **Monday 3rd December**.

Well done Reception, a super week!

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Copeland and Mrs McCarthy

