

Dear Parents,

It has been a lovely week in Reception class and we have done so much, including having our first visitor in to talk to us. As an end to our topic work on weather, we had a visit from a lady called Rosie on Tuesday, who works for the Met Office. She talked to us about how we get the seasons and showed us how the world moves around the sun. She showed us pictures of different types of weather including some giant hail stones and this time we made a



rainbow by shining a torch on a prism. However, the most exciting part of the session was when we made our own cloud! The children (and Mrs McCarthy) were very impressed with this, so much so we did it three times. It was a lovely end to our topic and it was great to see the children also sharing their knowledge with her.

Following on from this session, and the forecast of rain this week, some children have now made a rain gauge in the outside area to record our rainfall. With storm Diana coming we wonder how long it will take for the buckets to fill up?



Our maths focus for this week has been subtraction. We began the week focussing on revision of one more and one less, before introducing the vocabulary: subtraction and takeaway. We looked at some dinosaur subtraction stories and then learnt what the subtraction sign looked like and how we could use it in a number sentence, just like when we were learning to add. Children always find subtraction more difficult because it involves counting backwards so any practice you can do on counting backwards at home would help with this.

In phonics this week we have been revisiting the digraph sounds **ng**, **qu**, **er** and **ar**. We have continued to work on writing simple dictated sentences and have enjoyed playing a game on phonics play called rocket race in which the children have to listen to the word and segment it for spelling to build the parts of the rocket. Another favourite phonics game at the moment is buried treasure. This is really good for checking the children's sound knowledge as they have to read decodable words that could be real or nonsense. At the end of the week we introduced some of the Phase 3 tricky words **he**, **she**, **we**, **me** and **be** and will be encouraging the children to look out for them in their reading books.

There have been lovely smells coming from the classroom and Mrs Carruther's kitchen this week as we have been busy making Christmas cakes and dog biscuits to sell on our stall next week.



Weather permitting the stall will be out near the main entrance school gate at the end of each day next week and possibly the following week if the items prove popular. Last year the dog biscuits were in high demand and orders had to be taken after we sold out!

Christmas is certainly on its way to Reception class. With the weather taking a turn for the worse we all enjoyed a Santa bop on Thursday lunchtime instead of a dash around the field. There were some super movers in our class and medal winners for best dancers.



Nativity rehearsals are also going well. The singing from the children is fantastic, and we are sure you are going to thoroughly enjoy watching the children perform.

Well done Reception, enjoy the weekend,

Mrs McCarthy and Mrs Copeland

Reminders:

- Christmas Nativity - **Monday 10th December**
- Christmas lunch - **Wednesday 12th December**
- Trip to Pantomime - **Thursday 13th December**
- Christmas Jumper Day - **Friday 14th December**
- Keep checking the class learning page on our website as we will be updating it over the next two weeks with photos of events this half term, and remember to follow us on twitter [@AlnePrimary](https://twitter.com/AlnePrimary) for regular updates on all the fun and exciting things going on throughout the school.