

Dear Parents,

Christmas has arrived in Reception class and there was much excitement when the children came in on Monday to find the role play area had been transformed into Santa's grotto complete with a Santa suit, Rudolph costume, Christmas tree and lots of costumes for the Santa's elves.



A huge thank you for kindness and support with our class stall this week. The children really enjoyed making the dog biscuits, Christmas cake and the tea light holders, and so far we have raised a total of **£57.50**. We really are grateful and the money will go towards some new equipment for use in the outside area. There are still a few bags of dog biscuits and a few slices of Christmas cake available.

Our maths focus for this week has continued with some more work on subtraction. This week we have been using dominoes to record subtraction number sentences. We revisited the dinosaur stories to look at how to record a subtraction number sentence. We then used different dominoes to make our own sentences. We learnt that it was important to start with the larger number first in the number sentence, followed by the second number, and then looked at two different ways to solve the calculation. The first way was to use our fingers and take down the number we were taking away before counting how many we had left. Our second method was to draw the number of dots we were starting with on our whiteboards, and then rub out the number we were taking away, before counting how many spots we had left. The children were getting really good at recognising this with some even recognising that if one side of the domino was blank, then we would have to write a zero in our number sentence.



In phonics this week we have been working on segmenting words for spelling and have been using the programme Rocket rescue on phonics play. In this activity the children see a picture and hear the word, before segmenting the sounds and recording them on their whiteboards. We then type the word into the computer to see if we are correct and if so we build a part of the robot. The children are becoming far more confident at segmenting words for spelling and hopefully you are seeing this within their reading at home too. At the end of the week we introduced some more of the Phase 3 tricky

words **was, you, are, my** and **all** and will be encouraging the children to look out for them in their reading books.

Next week we will be sending the children's learning journey's home for you to have a look through. Could we ask that they be returned to school the following day or at least by the end of the week, many thanks?

Well done Reception, enjoy the weekend,

Mrs McCarthy and Mrs Copeland

Reminders:

- Christmas Nativity - **Monday 10th December** Children will be sent home with a named bag containing their costume at the end of the school day and should arrive dressed ready to perform at **5:45pm**. We will be starting promptly at 6pm and the performance is just under 30 minutes long. At the end of the performance please come to us to collect your child so we can tick them off the list and make sure all children are accounted for.
- Christmas lunch - **Wednesday 12th December**
- Trip to Pantomime (*a packed lunch required unless you have ordered a school one*)- **Thursday 13th December**
- Christmas Jumper Day - **Friday 14th December**

Teaching arrangements until the end of term: Mrs Harpin will not be returning to school before the end of term so Mrs Copeland and I will continue to be full time in Reception Class and Class 4 until the Christmas break. The children will however, be excited to see the return of Mrs Copeland for the Monday and Tuesday of the last week as Mrs McCarthy has prior commitments and us unable to cover these days.