

Homework

We encourage all children to read to you **every day** at home. We cannot stress enough the importance of regular reading at home. It has a huge impact on progress and confidence, providing opportunities for your child to practise the skills they've learned in school. Ten minutes a day makes such a difference! We welcome the positive comments you make in the reading record, or on Tapestry, and appreciate the time you take to listen to your child. A weekly challenge will be posted on Tapestry each Friday for you to complete together at home over that weekend and through the week.

Expectations in Year R

Children throughout the school are encouraged at all times to be polite, diligent and hard working. We want the children to do the best they can and feel a sense of pride and achievement in everything they do. We welcome mistakes and encourage the children to persevere and be resilient. We encourage teamwork and a respect for all other members of 'Team St Minver'. We remind the children daily of our school motto, 'Be Brave, Be Kind, Belong'.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

The way in which we learn and our motivation is hugely important. In Class R we focus on these characteristics using our 'Lenny Lion's Learning Zoo'. Each characteristic has an animal associated with it and so the children strive to become ... Proud Peacocks, Persevering Parrots, Go for It Gorillas, Creative Chameleons, Choosing Chimps and Slinky Linky Snakes!

Class rewards

House points and stickers are given to individuals as reward for excellent behaviour, attitudes and work. A filled sticker chart means the children choose a small gift from our prize box! Each week a child will be selected to be the star of the week, although our celebration assemblies will continue to be online events for a while longer!

Our hopes for the children

At the beginning of the year we set out some of the hopes we have for the children in our class; the things that we hope we can help them to achieve (aside from just the educational things). Throughout this second half term in Class R we will work on these following things and ensure that all the children have the opportunity to refine them. Here are some of the things on our list:

- ◆ Take part confidently in our Christmas production; be able to perform in front of an audience
- ◆ Join the rest of the class on a trip outside the school grounds - walk in the local area to deliver a Christmas card to the post-box
- ◆ Learn to put on and zip up their own coat without support
- ◆ Enjoy St Minver school traditions such as: secret room, Christmas lunch, Christmas Jumper Day
- ◆ Name and talk about at least 3 characters from Lenny Lion's Learning Zoo
- ◆ Learn a traditional Christmas Carol
- ◆ Be able to talk about a famous artist and recognise their work

Remember to get in touch if you have any queries or concerns. With very best wishes,

Mrs A Warren



Cowrie Class - Reception

Class Booklet - Autumn Term 2

Teacher: Mrs A Warren



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the second half of the autumn term in Cowrie Class! This booklet will provide some information about what we will be learning about during this coming half term, although some things may change as we go along. Our main topic for this half-term is called 'Do you Remember When...?' The main intention of this topic is to build upon some of the things the children have already learnt and start to build a time line of events that have happened in the past. We will explore a variety of celebrations as a route into this theme starting with the children's own experiences; Do you remember how you have celebrated things at home? (birthdays, Christmas, Bonfire Night). Making comparisons between our celebrations and how other people celebrate (and what they celebrate) starts us off on the journey of accepting each other and respecting differences between people, faiths and cultures.

Literacy and Communication & Language

Within Literacy we work on a range of skills including; Listening, Vocabulary, Questioning, Sentence and Sentence Building, Story-telling, Non-fiction texts and Phonics. We will share a range of texts to support our themes on Bonfire Night, Diwali, Remembrance and Christmas. We will also explore poetry from the book 'Zim, Zam Zoom' and our main class text for this half-term will be 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell. The children will also benefit from:

- * Sharing books individually with an adult
- * Daily phonics lessons
- * Handwriting practice (initially focusing on the correct posture and pencil grip)
- * Regular library visits to our school library
- * Texts to support all areas and activities within the learning environment
- * Small group guided reading sessions 3 x per week

Mathematics

In maths the children will be provided with the opportunities to work with and explore numbers up to 5 (and beyond). They will work on counting groups of objects accurately, subitising and comparing quantities. The children will continue to learn how to use a five-frame to support their maths development and understand that if a five-frame is full then there are five. When counting a group of objects the children will learn that the last number they say represents the number there are in the set. They will know that this is the cardinal number. We will also learn other counting principles such as the stable order principle and the one-to-one principle. The children will complete work to help their understanding of one more and one less and link this directly to counting on and counting back. We will also explore and investigate shapes with four sides and four corners. Towards the end of the half term we will spend some time talking about night and day and order key events in our daily routines. The children will begin to measure them in simple ways e.g., counting down the number of sleeps until Christmas! These are some of the texts that we will use to support our learning:

- ◆ Pete the Cat and his Four Groovy Buttons—Pete Letwin
- ◆ Kipper's Birthday—Mick Inkpen
- ◆ The Very Hungry Caterpillar—Eric Carle
- ◆ Square—Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen
- ◆ Peace at Last—Jill Murphy
- ◆ Day Monkey, Night Monkey—Julia Donaldson
- ◆ Funnybones—Janet and Allen Ahlberg

Personal, Social & Emotional Development - Jigsaw

This term our theme is 'Celebrating Difference' and we will be learning about our uniqueness and our differences. We will explore what makes us different to our friends and learn to treat each other with kindness no matter what our likes, dislikes and beliefs are. We will talk about why our homes are special to us and we will think about ways that we can be a good friend. Finally we will talk about what words we can use to stand up for ourselves should we ever need to.

Physical Development

We will continue to develop the children's fine motor control and coordination. We will use a variety of different tools to make marks and continue to develop our posture when sitting down to write. The children will work on using the correct pencil grip and become more comfortable when writing. Each day we complete a 20 minute PE activity and amongst other things this half term we will also focus on developing a lunge technique, jumping from one to two feet and two to one foot and direct our body weight to develop a push and pull motion. We will also move to a variety of tempos with music and link body shapes and movements together. Finally we will also develop the ball skills associated with bouncing and catching.

Understanding the World

As part of our work on comprehending the world around us we will focus on:

- ◆ Family - The children will be encouraged to talk about their weekend news plus things they have celebrated together with their families in the past (birthdays, Christmas, Bonfire Night).
- ◆ The Past - The children will have the opportunity to share things from their own past plus also learn about things that have happened a long time ago such as The Gunpowder Plot.
- ◆ Geography - We will explore our local area by walking to the post box to post our Christmas cards. We will take photos and build maps of our journey. We will also compare our locality to other places around the world such as India (when we learn about Diwali).
- ◆ Senses & Seasons - The children are always encouraged to explore every activity with their senses. What does it feel like? What can you see? What can you smell? What can you hear?
- ◆ People - Celebrating is all about people! This half term is all about how and what different people celebrate. We will make comparisons between different events and learn that being different is positive; we wouldn't want the world to be full of people who are all the same would we?
- ◆ Our RE work this half term will focus on Christianity and why Christmas is important to Christians. We will learn about the Nativity story by singing songs and acting it out.

Expressive Arts & Design

As part of our work in this area of development we will focus on:

- ◆ Art and Creativity - We will explore primary colours through the artwork of Piet Mondrian. The children will work on colouring/painting within borders. We will use primary colours to create more colour.
- ◆ Music - We will explore different styles of music through compositions called 'When the Cold Wind Blows' and 'Gathered Round the Christmas Tree'. We will listen carefully to lyrics and respond appropriately through dance. We will also investigate tempo, dynamics, and short and long sounds.
- ◆ Dance and Performing Arts - The children are immersed in a language-rich environment where during play they are encouraged to talk, express their feelings and respond to a range of stories and music. We will use a range of familiar and new stories within our play and encourage the children to act them out, adapt them and create their own.