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"Be the best that you can be"

### Autumn 2 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you have had a fantastic week. The Reception teachers have been busy preparing for our new, exciting topic. We hope you have enjoyed creating your 'Our Community' projects together, if you hadn't already done so. We can not wait to display them for all to see how much we value the world we live in. We are fast approaching our favorite time of the year...Christmas! So naturally we will be covering a topic all about winter. The children will create a winter wonderland in our classrooms and learn all about winter animals, dressing for different seasons and which animals live in the Arctic and Antarctic. The topic will finish with festive celebrations and a traditional look at the Christmas story.

#### **What is it like in a winter wonderland?**

**Week 1:** Why are Rama and Sita so special? Our first week will look at celebrations focussing on Diwali. The children will love exploring how different cultures celebrate, by comparing to our own traditions. We will use our different senses to explore the beautiful celebration.

**Week 2:** Where can we find Winter Wonderlands? We begin the winter topic by looking at cold climates and what we need to take with us.

**Week 3:** How do penguins keep their eggs warm? The children will love learning about the harsh environments in which different types of penguins live and how they stay alive.

**Week 4:** Could penguins and polar bears be friends? This week will be exploring whether or not Polar Bears and Penguins could be friends by looking at the Arctic and the Antarctic.

**Week 5:** Where do animals go in winter? With the help of Henry Hedgehog, we will learn more about hibernation and how we can help animals during the winter months. (Sshhh! It's a secret, but this week the children we also be visiting a very jolly man in a red suit. We will be visiting him at Birches Valley in Cannock. Details of this will follow containing information on what to wear, the cost of the trip and the date.)

**Week 6:** Where did the snow man go? This week we will be scientists. We will be exploring different materials. Looking at how they change from solids to liquids, and which materials we can use to keep warm. We will also watch the children's classic 'The Snowman'. This is a PG rating, so please let a member of staff know if you do not wish for your child to take part. In addition to this exciting week, its 'Lights, Camera, Action' time as the children perform their Christmas sing-a-long. Details of how you can get tickets for this epic Broadway production will be sent out later in the term! Ensure you have warmed up your vocal chords, as we love audience participation!

**Week 7:** What makes Christmas special? This is by far one of our favourite weeks, as the children learn all about the real reason we celebrate Christmas. We will also be reflecting on the term and what we have found out, as well as having lots of Christmas fun! Baking, making and creating. Bring out the Christmas glitter and festive head gear!

Daily maths and phonics will continue in school. We value the support we have from home. Please keep up with the home reading, at least three times per week. As per this term, the books will be changed on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please read at least three times per week and continue to practice the phonics and common exception words we sent out in the Phonics hand book. These books are for your information and do not need to come into school. Write a comment in the diary to show what you have practiced. We will send out a dojo message to you highlighting what your child is working on in their phonics group. Each child learns at a different pace. Our thorough monitoring allows us to track the children's next steps and work on the key aspects that support their learning.

Please remember we have an open door policy and value the relationships we have with our families. Please do come and see us any time or contact us on dojo. If we can't see you on the door, we can arrange to meet later in the day. We thank you for your continued support.

The Reception Team

