

December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Well... the children's first ever term at school is nearly over! The time has flown by! We are all so proud of how the children have settled into their school life and of their achievements. We would like to share some of our favourite moments with you. Can you believe it was only a couple of months ago that the children started school? They have all worked so hard to settle into their new routines and to learn the school rules and expectations. It's been lovely to watch lots of new friendships develop and to see how happy the children are coming to school each morning.



The children have really enjoyed learning their letter sounds in our daily phonics sessions and experimenting with the new sounds in lots of fun ways in the classroom. The children often come in very excited telling us all about doing their homework and it is evident that they've been practising their sounds and writing letters lots at home, so thank you to all of you. The way that the children's reading and writing is coming along is fantastic and they love sharing all the wonderful things they do during play and learn with the rest of the class.

Our first topic was 'Autumn'. As I'm sure you heard we went on an autumn walk to see what we could find. The children loved exploring the school grounds and collecting objects to stick on their strip of paper. Back in the classroom we continued our learning about autumn by comparing autumn objects such as sticks, pine cones and leaves by size; and mixing autumn colours to paint trees with their leaves falling.



A lot of our learning this half-term has been based around festivals. Straight after half term we learnt about Bonfire Night. We learnt about Guy Fawkes and we made bonfire pictures on the iPads and made our own rockets.



Our next theme was Diwali. We enjoyed writing firework words for example 'pop', 'bang' and 'whizz' and we made Diwali cards. We loved making up Diwali dances in the outdoor area. We were very proud of the Diya pots we made and we were excited to take them home.



A highlight of the term was writing letters to Father Christmas. We enjoyed taking them to the post box and we are waiting patiently for a reply! We were very excited about our visit to CSK church. After walking to the Church, we listened to the Nativity story, we also learnt about how Christians celebrate Christmas. On returning to school we made simple maps to show the route we took to get to the church.

As a whole school we decorated the main school corridor for our annual Winter Wonderland Display. The theme this year was 'Christmas around the World'. In Reception we learnt about how Christmas is celebrated in Poland.

It really has been a great term for all of us in Reception. We would like to thank all of the fantastic Teaching Assistants who have worked so hard alongside us to help the children settle in and to support them with their work.

And finally, we would all like to thank you too for all of your help and support. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas holiday and we look forward to hearing all about what the children have been doing when we see them again in the New Year.

Mrs Thorold and Mrs Baranowicz