



## Reception Curriculum Information

Week beginning: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Dear Parents

What an exciting week we have had! Our assembly this week was led by Revd Dr Patrick Richmond from Christ Church, Eaton and he talked about healing and comfort, linking it to our charity, Nelson's Journey. Bird Family meetings were our full introduction to charities; children were asked what a charity was and children shared names of charities that they had heard of or supported. We talked about Nelson's Journey and the work that they do in bringing back smiles to children and families. Children then heard all about 'worry eaters', adorable cuddly toys who gobble up your worries into their zip-up mouths!

Thursday was 'wear something purple day' in aid of Nelson's Journey. We were very impressed with the children's outfits and we thank you for your contributions. Children also decorated our famous shortbread biscuits for a friend, to make them smile! We set them a challenge to design their own 'worry eater', with a prize awarded for a person in each class. Sarah Hyde from Nelson's Journey came in today to judge our entries and award the prizes. We were really impressed with all the entries and creative ideas.

On Wednesday, we welcomed the PTA for their AGM and coffee morning and also James Mayhew for an exciting day of talks and workshops. James is the author of the 'Katie' series and is an amazing illustrator. He told the children stories whilst he drew and painted illustrations. Reception children focused on dinosaurs and dragons. James also talked about practising ideas and the importance of making mistakes. He said he enjoys making them, as it is all part of learning. We thank James for an amazing day...look out for some of his beautiful art work as it begins to adorn our Pre Prep walls.

Today we welcomed lots of grandparents for coffee and cake before visiting their grandchildren's classroom and all the children from Reception to Year 2 joined the Prep children for a whole school assembly, where Mr Bevington shared the Julia Donaldson story *A Squash and a Squeeze* and its many messages!

In Reception, we have been assessing the children's progress in phonics in preparation for Read Write Inc literacy lessons, which will start after half term. As well as listening to lovely stories read by James Mayhew, we have read 'Rosie's Walk' by Pat Hutchins, focusing on the positional language and the various directions she took on her journey.

We continued the focus of position and direction during maths lessons. The children described the position and direction of objects and gave directions around the school playground, travelling under, over, behind and in front of obstacles.

In games, we have continued the purple theme by dancing outdoors with purple streamers and finding obstacles we can climb over and under. The children enjoyed

using their streamers to make shapes in the air and travel in a variety of directions, changing their speed and negotiating space.

Please note that after half-term, there will be some changes to the Reception swimming schedule, which may affect which day your child swims on:

**Mondays:** Chestnut Tree class and Yew Tree class

**Tuesdays:** Beech Tree class and Oak Tree class

Over half term you may like to continue to form numerals with increased accuracy. You may also like to practise counting groups of objects using mathematical vocabulary 'more' or 'fewer' to compare two sets of objects. Please enjoy sharing story books with your child and you may like to visit your local library.

**Dates for your diary:**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November:** Start of second half of term

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December – 8.30am-10.00am:** Reception coffee morning in the Pre Prep hall followed by the Reception Christmas production in the Read Hall

We hope you have a wonderful half-term break with your children.

With our best wishes from Mrs Alexandre, Miss Knightly, Mrs Laing, Mrs Brown and Mrs Harries

*Melanie Harries*