



Year 1 Curriculum Information

Week Beginning: 11th December 2017

Dear Parents

In assembly this week the Year 1 and 2 children performed their Christmas Carol Service for the Reception children, in readiness for their church service yesterday. Today, we enjoyed celebrating December birthdays, stars of the week, and Bird Family token totals! We also said 'Thank you' to Mrs Damrath, who is leaving Town Close to return to Poland. Mrs Lisa Martin will be joining us as a Year 1 teaching assistant in the new year. Bird Family meetings focused on being thankful, which was linked to Christmas.

It was lovely to see some of you at the Year One and Two Christmas Carol Service yesterday at Christ Church Eaton. We were very impressed with the attitude that the children displayed towards this service, which is a fairly formal occasion. The children all looked very smart, behaved well and sang beautifully.

Class Literacy

We read the story of Christmas and re-ordered the story by cutting and sticking pictures and matching the corresponding sentences. We have also undertaken a piece of independent writing based on the story of 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. We were very impressed not only with the children's finished writing pieces but also the concentration they showed over an extended piece of time. We have continued opening our class advent calendars as well as enjoying a daily interactive advent calendar on the interactive whiteboard.

Maths

We have recapped some core mathematical skills including adding, subtracting and doubling. We have also completed some data handling as a class, by voting for our favourite Christmas advert, recording this in the form of a tally chart and displaying the information in various charts such as bar graphs and pie charts.

Other lessons and activities

- We have enjoyed art and craft activities, including making calendars for the new year and Christmas cards.
- The children have now completed their maths, SPaG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) and reading assessments. We were very pleased with the attitude and attainment of many of the children.
- We had our final library, music and dance sessions before the holidays
- We were very excited to learn that Father Christmas had visited the Bananarium and had left each Year One class some presents to reward them for their behaviour and effort over their first term in Year One!
- We enjoyed getting festive by wearing our Christmas jumpers on Wednesday and having our Christmas dinner at lunchtime today! We also enjoyed some Christmas yoga and party games in the Pre Prep hall on Tuesday afternoon.

Over the holidays, your child may like to do some of the following:

Enjoy a well-earned rest!

We believe that the children should enjoy this special time of the year with their families without the need to worry about schoolwork. It would be great if they could spend some time keeping up with their reading but there is no pressure to do so. Your child may also wish to keep a Christmas holiday diary in their home school books, which they will be able to show and share during the first week back in January. This diary could be photographs, pictures, with or without annotations or full sentences. If your child doesn't wish to write their own news you may like to scribe for them. Again, this is entirely optional.

We find that playing board games is very beneficial for the children in order to practise their counting and turn taking skills. We have also been working very hard on table manners at lunchtimes including using cutlery correctly, sitting nicely, using kind manners to the kitchen staff and clearing away independently – we hope the children will be able to display these skills when eating their Christmas dinner at home!

After the holidays we will continue to provide homework suggestions, including new weekly spellings/handwriting homework, which will be provided by your child's class literacy teacher. More details about this will be provided in the first curriculum letter after Christmas on Friday 12th January.

While we won't be providing a weekly photo montage in your child's home school book after the holidays, we will still stick in photographs of special events that happen throughout the year, for example school trips, World Book Day, sports day etc.

Finally, we are sure you would like to join us in thanking Mrs Damrath for all of her hard work during the time she has worked at the school and wish her the best of luck as she moves back to her native Poland.

We hope that you have a fantastic Christmas holiday with your children. From all of the Year One team we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to welcoming you and your children back on Tuesday 9th January.

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 8 February - 5-7.30pm: Parents' evening for Reception, Year 1 and 2 (in the Pre Prep)

Thursday 1 March: World Book Day – dress as your favourite book character. Author visit.

With very best wishes from Mrs Brown, Mrs Parker, Mr Fisher, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Harries

Melanie Harries

