



AR/LL 16.10.17

## **Lions and Tigers Newsletter October 2017**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can hardly believe the children have only been at school for half a term. The children have made a fantastic start and settled into the routine of school really quickly. They know all the routines of the school week, the very important Golden Rules and can get changed for PE on their own! As well as all of this, they have taken part in Golden Time and are very excited to be taking part in VIP from next half term.

After half term, our topic will be 'Where am I?'. We will be exploring our immediate local environment and the greater world around us. The children will begin by exploring space and the solar system through scientific enquiry and the creative arts. Then we will be looking at similarities and differences between communities and cultures, internationally, nationally and locally. Throughout all of this we will continue to foster the children's love of books and literacy with a range of texts from authors including Oliver Jeffers, Claire Freedman and Michael Bond.



Towards the end of the half term, we will move away from our topic and begin thinking about the Nativity story, culminating in our simple production 'Cock-a-doodle Christmas' at St Mary's Church on **Friday 15th December at 9:30am**, to which you are all most welcome.

### **Forest Schools -**

The children have enjoyed their first session of our Forest Schools programme and are excited to continue after the holidays. It promises to be a great time for the children and I hope all the volunteers that are coming to help have a great time too. Please ensure your child comes dressed in **warm clothing and suitable footwear** especially with the unpredictability of the weather. The dates for each class are:

<b>Lions</b>	<b>Tigers</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	9 <sup>th</sup> Nov
16 <sup>th</sup> Nov	23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov
30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	7 <sup>th</sup> Dec

### **Read Write Inc -**

The children are all working hard through the initial set of phonemes and some are beginning to blend these sounds to read words. In order for you to support them in this exciting journey we would like to invite you into school for a Phonics and Reading Workshop. At this meeting we will explain how the children progress through our Phonics programme and give you some background information about Bug Club, which is our online reading scheme that can be accessed at home.

The workshop is at **6pm** on **Tuesday 31st October** and should last no more than 30 minutes, access will be through the Foundation entrance door. We hope to see you there to support your child's reading at home.



### Storytime -

In addition to Phonics and home reading, next half term the children will begin visiting our school library where the children will be able to borrow a book to read at home for the week. We would like to invite you into school on **Wednesdays at 14.45hrs** to share these books with your child. These books can then be taken home but must be back in school before your child can choose another. This will start on **Wednesday 1st November** for the **Lions** and **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November** for the **Tigers**. It will then run alternate weeks for each class. Please feel free to bring siblings and arrive through the Foundation gate and door. Could we ask for buggies to be parked outside due to lack of space in the classroom.

### PE -

This half term we have been thinking about control and balance, practising yoga and agility games. We have also been thinking about healthy eating and self care so please continue to provide healthy choices for lunch and snack time. PE kit will be sent home at the end of each half term, our normal activity days are Wednesday and Friday, so it will need to be returned promptly after half term. Can we also remind those children that attend Sporty Saplings to bring their PE kits back to school in time for their next lesson. It is also important on PE days for children to not wear any jewellery and girls to have their hair tied up please.

### Tapestry -

Tapestry is a secure online Learning Journal to record photos, observations and comments, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, to build up a record of your child's experiences during their time with us. Your child's online learning journal is now live on <https://tapestryjournal.com> and hopefully you should have received an activation email. If you haven't please let us know. The principal reason that we have moved across to Tapestry is because it enables a flow of communication between school and parents and vice versa. We recognise that lots of learning and development goes on outside school and this information not only helps us to complete your child's development profile but more importantly gives us the opportunity to celebrate their successes.

### Lost Property -

A few parents have reported that some items of their children's school uniform have gone missing. This may happen on a PE day when the children are getting changed, the best way to avoid this is to ensure EVERYTHING is labelled clearly. If your child does come home in something not belonging to them, please return it to us and we will return it to the correct child. Sometimes items get misplaced elsewhere in the school or in the playground. These items may be handed into lost property in the school office.

Finally, can we please ask that you continue to update us daily on the door of any changes to pick-up, especially if your child is due to go to an after school club or is going home with someone different.

Thank you so much for your continued support with your children's learning, it has been a pleasure to begin their schooling journey. They deserve a great holiday and I hope they return to school well rested and excited to get on with what the next term has in store!

Aidan Richards  
Foundation Phase Leader