

Classes 1 and 2 Newsletter Autumn Term 2 2017

We have all had a super start to the year with everyone making new friends and settling into the routines. Thank you for attending the Parents' Evenings last week.

EYFS Outdoor area improvements

Part of our Inset Day on Friday was spent creating an improved outdoor learning environment for all the children. We have moved the sand pit and mud kitchen to a more suitable area. The children are already enjoying their new learning space. We have created a more defined area for large scale construction for all our 'problem solvers'. If you have any spare strong crates or plastic drainpipes - we could be interested. Please speak to the teachers before bringing anything in to school.

Phonics, reading books and handwriting

There is the expectation that parents should read (either a reading book, blending book or home book) 5 times a week with their child. Please ensure that this is recorded in the reading record. Children will be able to change reading books with their teacher at least twice a week. Children need to be secure in the recognition of a few sounds before bringing books with words home. Our first sounds have been 's a t p i n m d'. We have begun to learn to identify the sounds and names of letters and practice writing them using our cursive handwriting scheme. Children also need to know the names of letters but knowing the sounds is key to learning to read and write. Writing the letters is VERY tricky at first but it will get much easier with lots of practice. We are introducing 4 different letter sounds each week alongside the cursive letter formation visual images. Please try to encourage your child to have a go at writing letters and their name with pencils at home. Think about words that have that letter sound at the beginning, in the middle or at the ends of words. Chalk writing outside or magic painting with water and a brush on the fence is also great!

Tricky words

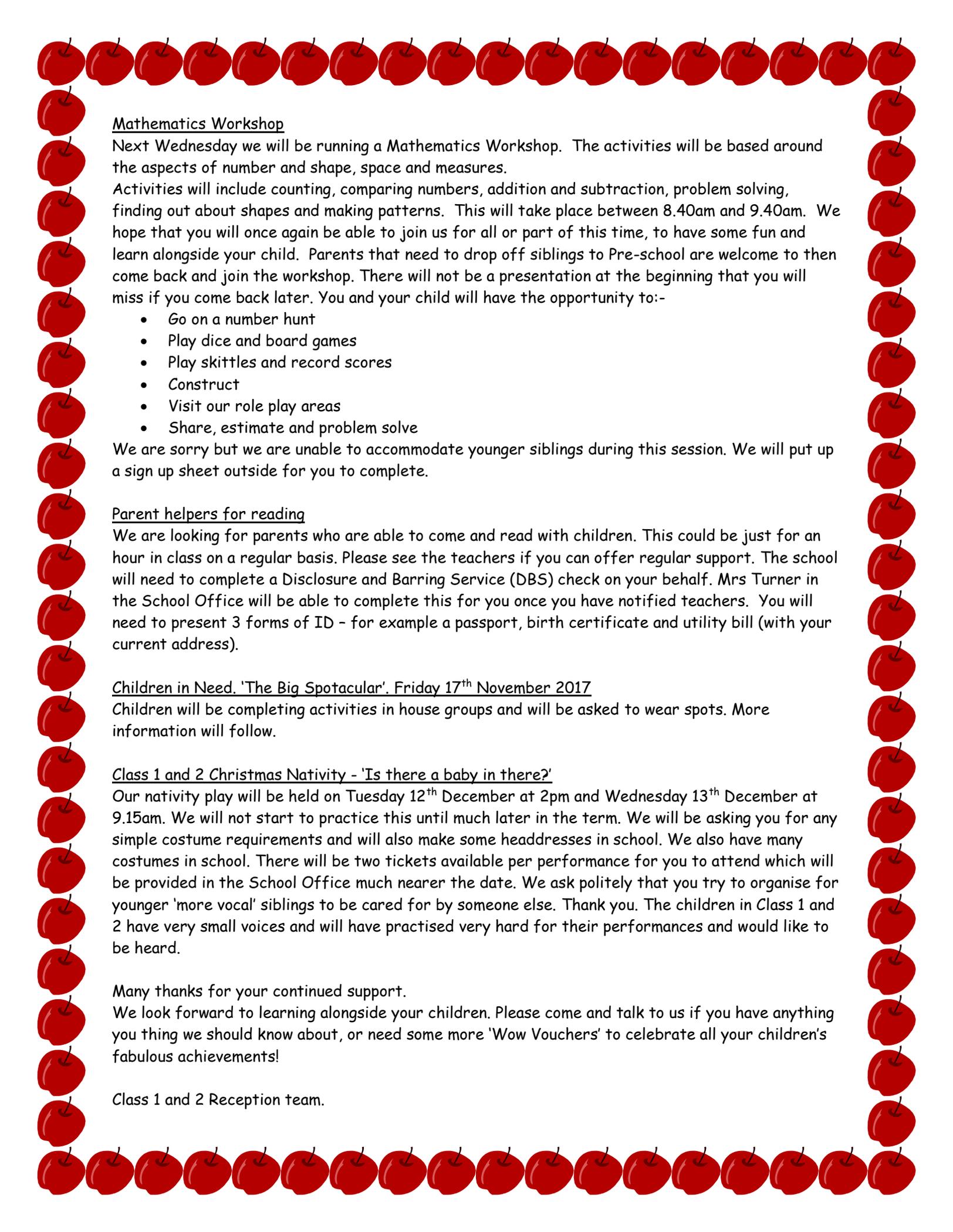
At the back of the blending book we have stuck in the words that children need to know just by looking at them. These start with I, no, to, go the and into. These words are not able to be sounded out phonetically. Daily practice of these words is also key to reading as they will start to appear in the books very quickly and will help your child with fluency.

Library Books and 100 Reads

The children will have a chance to change their library books every Thursday (Class 1) and Friday (Class 2). On the same day the children will also start to bring home another book from the classroom which is from the '100 Reads'. These are from a box in the classroom of the 100 best books to read from the Book Trust. They are marked with a sticker. Please bring these into school each Thursday or Friday.

Themes

This term we have started with Celebrations which will include Bonfire Night, Remembrance and St Martin and have introduced 'Space' as there is a keen interest in rockets!



Mathematics Workshop

Next Wednesday we will be running a Mathematics Workshop. The activities will be based around the aspects of number and shape, space and measures.

Activities will include counting, comparing numbers, addition and subtraction, problem solving, finding out about shapes and making patterns. This will take place between 8.40am and 9.40am. We hope that you will once again be able to join us for all or part of this time, to have some fun and learn alongside your child. Parents that need to drop off siblings to Pre-school are welcome to then come back and join the workshop. There will not be a presentation at the beginning that you will miss if you come back later. You and your child will have the opportunity to:-

- Go on a number hunt
- Play dice and board games
- Play skittles and record scores
- Construct
- Visit our role play areas
- Share, estimate and problem solve

We are sorry but we are unable to accommodate younger siblings during this session. We will put up a sign up sheet outside for you to complete.

Parent helpers for reading

We are looking for parents who are able to come and read with children. This could be just for an hour in class on a regular basis. Please see the teachers if you can offer regular support. The school will need to complete a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check on your behalf. Mrs Turner in the School Office will be able to complete this for you once you have notified teachers. You will need to present 3 forms of ID - for example a passport, birth certificate and utility bill (with your current address).

Children in Need. 'The Big Spotacular'. Friday 17th November 2017

Children will be completing activities in house groups and will be asked to wear spots. More information will follow.

Class 1 and 2 Christmas Nativity - 'Is there a baby in there?'

Our nativity play will be held on Tuesday 12th December at 2pm and Wednesday 13th December at 9.15am. We will not start to practice this until much later in the term. We will be asking you for any simple costume requirements and will also make some headdresses in school. We also have many costumes in school. There will be two tickets available per performance for you to attend which will be provided in the School Office much nearer the date. We ask politely that you try to organise for younger 'more vocal' siblings to be cared for by someone else. Thank you. The children in Class 1 and 2 have very small voices and will have practised very hard for their performances and would like to be heard.

Many thanks for your continued support.

We look forward to learning alongside your children. Please come and talk to us if you have anything you think we should know about, or need some more 'Wow Vouchers' to celebrate all your children's fabulous achievements!

Class 1 and 2 Reception team.