



Federation of Pinvin C of E First School and St Nicholas C of E Middle School

Main Street, Pinvin, Worcestershire WR10 2ER

Federation Head teacher: Mrs Sandra Jennings

Deputy Head Pinvin CE First School: Mrs Nicola Harvey

Deputy Head St Nicholas CE Middle School: Mrs Rachel Henrick

Together, we inspire, discover and achieve

18th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Sycamore class (Reception),

Welcome back! We hope you have had a wonderful break and that the children are feeling refreshed and ready for all the exciting learning that we have planned for this half term. Thank you for all the work that you have done to support your child in the week prior to half term, with the unfortunate school closure. We do appreciate how challenging these times are for all and are very grateful to you for all your support and understanding.

Our focus this half term is:

'Festivals and Celebrations - how and why do I celebrate?'



Subject	Focus
English	The children are now doing really well with their writing and we have a good number of 'name writers' now! We continue to work upon writing daily in school within our Literacy and Phonics lessons, first writing our names and then working on simple CVC words (sat, mat, cat etc). You can help support your child at home using the letters that they have learnt to make simple words to both read and write. Please encourage your child to form their letters correctly by starting and finishing in the correct place. If you have any questions about our handwriting style then please come and ask one of us.
Mathematics	In maths this half term we will continue to practise our counting and number recognition extending the children up to 20. We will begin finding the number that is one more and one less than a given number. We will

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	<p>also be using our knowledge of numbers to look at estimating how many objects we can see and then check by counting to see if our estimates were close.</p> <p>The children have already looked at 2D shapes and we will be extending them to be recognising, naming and describing familiar 3D shapes such as sphere, cylinder, cube, cone and cuboid.</p>
Topic work	<p>This half term, Reception will be exploring the theme, 'Festivals and Celebrations'. We will be learning about Bonfire Night, Diwali, Remembrance Day and of course, Christmas.</p> <p>We will be focusing on the story of 'The Gingerbread man.' The children will learn to retell and act out the story, produce story maps and then have a go at innovating the story and changing some of the characters. We will be doing lots of practical activities to help us with this such as dressing up and becoming the characters, baking and junk modelling our very own gingerbread houses and boats.</p> <p>We will continue to practise our writing skills through our Literacy and Theme work, including writing a letter to Father Christmas, which we may be able to post at our local post box in Pinvin.</p>
R.E.	<p>Our theme for R.E. is 'Incarnation' and the key question the children will be exploring is 'Why do Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas? The children will explore the importance of the arrival of baby Jesus to Christians through their own acting out of the Nativity and learning a few special, traditional Christmas hymns.</p>
P.S.E.D.	<p>P.S.E.D. is based around the theme 'Celebrating Difference'. The children will discuss their own special talents and learn that everyone is special and unique and good at different things. They will talk about their homes, family and friends, how to be a kind friend and also how to stand up for themselves without conflict.</p>
P.E.	<p>P.E. this half term will be gymnastics. The children will experience rolling, jumping, sliding and moving over and under apparatus to develop their coordination and gross motor skills.</p> <p>Please can parents check that all kit, uniform and even shoes are labelled. The children do tend to pick up other people's kit whilst getting changed so this will help us to return the right clothes to the correct bag.</p>

Communication books

Please continue to ensure your child brings their communication book into school every day as, due to restrictions in place at the moment, this continues to be a really important way of passing messages to and from school. In the front of the communication book you will find passwords for Google Classroom and Purple Mash. Please make sure you keep these safe as in the event of a bubble or school closure all learning will move onto these online platforms immediately.

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Reading

Once your child knows the initial sounds being taught in phonics and is beginning to blend these sounds together, they will bring home a school reading book. Please do not feel that your child has to read all of the book at once, a few pages read well, with an understanding of what they have read, is fine 3 to 4 times a week. If your child is not yet on school reading books, they will be practising their initial sounds and blending at school to help encourage that move to reading books. The children can also continue to choose a book from our library collection for you to share at home with them. They can do this as many times a week as they wish. We would like parents to continue to talk to the children about what they have read and sign the communication book noting any response or conversation you have had about their reading book or their library book. Reading logs are found in the communication book from p.11 onwards. We will check these daily and anyone who has read with an adult the previous night can put a sticker on our class reading chart which is displayed in the classroom. Those who do this at least 3 times each week for the whole half term will also receive an additional certificate in our final celebration assembly before Christmas. Please note that due to current guidance, returned books will be quarantined for 72 hours before being put back out.

This half term our author focus will be Julia Donaldson and we will be reading lots of her books during the school day, whilst also reading 'Stick Man' as one of our focus learning texts. Please can you share any books you have at home by this author and maybe encourage your child to draw something about the book; their favourite part of the story, their favourite character or anything else that they have enjoyed and send it into school for us to see.



Phonics

The children have made a great start learning the sounds made by letters (phonemes). We have been teaching 4 new sounds a week, with a recap lesson and time for teaching the recognition of sight (tricky) and High Frequency words. This half term we will recap the letter sounds that the children have already learnt but place a bigger emphasis on writing these sounds using correct formation. We will then begin teaching Set 6 and Set 7.

Set	Taught sounds (phonemes)	Tricky or High Frequency words
Set 1	s a t p	
Set 2	i n m d	is it in at l
Set 3	g o c k	and
Set 4	ck e u r	to the
Set 5	h b f,ff l,ll ss	no go
Set 6	j v w x	
Set 7	y z zz qu	he she

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Homework

The children will begin to have weekly homework this half term. It will be set on a Friday on Google Classroom and is to be submitted by the following Wednesday please. This will be linked to what the children are learning at school.

Equipment for School

Please continue to provide your child with a **named** water bottle every day, as water is essential to keep your child's brain 'switched on'. Please ensure your child's P.E. kit is in school and that it is named. Earrings and any other jewelry, including necklaces, need to be removed on P.E. days for your child's safety. P.E. will now take place on a Wednesday for Sycamore Class.

We know that things will continue to be slightly different but hopefully we can work together to ensure your child is safe, happy and learning to the best of their potential. Although we cannot welcome you into school we will still endeavour to support you and your child as best as we can. If there is anything you would like to discuss, please let us know through the communication books or by phoning the office and one of the team will call you back.

Kind regards

Mrs. Kilby and Mrs. Bennett

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