Reception Newsletter: 6.11.26

Welcome back to Autumn term 2!

It has been wonderful to hear all about the children's adventures and experiences over the half-term break.

They have returned to school full of enthusiasm and ready to dive back into their learning.

This week, we have been exploring traditional celebrations from different cultures. We learned about the Hindu festival of Diwali through the story of *Rama and Sita* and linked this to Bonfire Night as we explored the idea of light and discussed the different traditions people enjoy as part of these celebrations.

We also talked about why we celebrate Bonfire Night and discussed the importance of staying safe around fireworks, bonfires and sparklers.

In literacy, the children have been inspired to write words linked to fireworks and have enjoyed creating colourful firework patterns using chalk. We have been using our Fred Fingers to help us sound out and spell simple words, such as *pop*, to express what we think fireworks might sound like.

The children have enjoyed a range of creative activities, including making diva lamps using collage techniques, creating Rangoli patterns with 2D shapes outdoors and printing large firework pictures outside using paint and splayed cardboard tubes.

In Forest School, we made firework sticks using pipe cleaners and natural resources found in the forest area, which the children loved using to create exciting firework movements and sounds.

Through stories, discussions and hands-on experiences, the children have been fascinated by these traditions and celebrations.

We have also had lots of fun beginning to learn the songs for our Christmas Nativity and are already looking forward to sharing them with you in the coming weeks! 🎄 ✨







Phonics and Reading

It has been wonderful to see how quickly the children have settled back into school and embraced their new phonics groups. They have approached their learning with confidence, enthusiasm and lots of smiles!

Since returning, we have continued revisiting the sounds learned last term while also introducing new sounds and building upon previous learning. The children are working hard to apply their phonics knowledge in their reading and are making us very proud with their efforts.

This weekend, we will be sending phonics homework home to help children consolidate the sounds they have learned and prepare them for reading new green words. As their confidence grows, they will move on to reading sound-blending books when they are ready.

You can make a huge difference by spending a few minutes each day practising the sounds and green words that have already been sent home. Encourage your child to say the sounds and blend them together to read words. If they find blending tricky, try saying the sounds aloud like a robot and then joining them together. For example, if your child can blend the last two sounds but struggles with the first sound, you could break the word into smaller chunks, such as **c-at** for *cat*. If they are finding it difficult to remember sounds, revisit the sound mat first before moving on to reading words.

Most importantly, we want children to feel happy, successful and confident when they are reading. If your child is becoming frustrated, it is absolutely fine to take a step back and revisit sounds they already know. Short, fun and positive practice sessions are far more effective than long ones. Lots of praise and encouragement will help build your child's confidence and foster a lifelong love of reading.

Here are some fun ways to practise phonics at home:

- Go on a sound hunt around the house or garden.
- Hide sound cards and ask your child to find and read them.
- Play "robot talk" and guess the word being sounded out.
- Use magnetic letters to build green words.
- Write sounds and words in sand, shaving foam or chalk.
- Read green words using silly voices.
- Create a treasure hunt with green words to find and read.
- Play quick-fire flashcard games to build speed and confidence.

Thank you for your continued support. Working together at home and school helps every child to grow into a confident, enthusiastic reader.



Important diary dates and information

- 27.11.26- Whole school Christmas Jumper Day
- 7.12.26- Flu immunisations
- 8.12.26 – Christmas Performance 2.30pm (limited to 2 places per family due to space)
- 14.12.26- EYFS Party day – More information to follow
- 18.12.26 - Last Day of Autumn term
- 4.1.27- Teacher training day
- 5.1.27 – Spring Term starts for all children

Reminders:

1. Please can we remind all parents and carers to bring their child to the gate at drop-off and collect them directly from the gate at the end of the day. As our children are only 4 and 5 years old, it is important that they are handed over directly to teaching staff in the morning and to a parent or carer at collection time. This also provides an opportunity to share any important information with the class team. Thank you for your cooperation.

2. **This half term our PE days are on Wednesdays and Fridays.**

3. **Cool Milk.** Please remember that your child/ children are not eligible for free school milk after their 5th birthday. If you would like your child to continue having milk at school, you must contact Cool Milk directly at least two weeks before their birthday.

Southridge First School

'Proud to Make a Positive Impact'