

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all. Thank you so much for the lovely Christmas cards, gifts and good wishes. I hope you all had a lovely holiday spending time with your children and that they are now rested and eager to start the new year. We shall start this term by sharing our holiday news and discussing our favourite things about Christmas.

Curriculum

This term we are learning about 'Materials and Buildings'. We shall be discussing any toys that we have received as Christmas gifts, comparing modern day toys with toys from the past and looking closely at the materials from which they are made. Children will be invited to bring in one toy to show the class and make a short presentation about it during 'Show and Tell' time. I will let you know when it is your child's turn.



Literacy

Reception children made excellent progress with their reading last term and this term we shall be focussing on 'digraphs', where two letters represent one sound e.g. ai in rain or ee in feet. Please practise the digraph flashcards and high frequency words in your child's 'To and Fro' reading packs. To help with comprehension, please also talk to your child about characters in their reading books, ask them to make predictions part way through the story and to tell you their favourite bit at the end. Please sign the reading journal in the 'To and Fro' pack each time you read or complete flashcards with your child and remind them to bring their reading pack to school every day. Please also continue to help support your child with writing letters starting from the baseline.



We visit the school library every Wednesday afternoon and it is helpful if you could remind your child to bring their library book to school every Wednesday, even if they would like to keep it for another week.



Maths

To assist the children with their mastery of maths, we shall continue to teach one number per fortnight until they are familiar with all aspects of a number e.g. which two parts of a number can be added together to make the whole number, "5 and 4 is nine". Children will learn to subtract a small number from a larger number, understanding they will have 'fewer' objects if some have been taken away. They will also be exploring the weight of objects, comparing two or three things to say which is 'lighter' or 'heavier'.



Reminders

Children are proud to tell us about their learning at home. Please share this in their 'Special Books'. We can print out photos you'd like to add to their books if you send them to the school Early Years email address earlyyears@st-cuthberts.n-yorks.sch.uk.

P.E. is on a Monday afternoon, followed by tuck shop (20p for a drink and 20p for a biscuit). We also have P.E. on a Thursday which may be dance or using the bikes/scooters. Please ensure your child has a P.E. kit (white T-shirt with school logo, navy or black shorts and trainers - not pumps) in school. As with all uniform, **these must be clearly named**.

Celebration Assemblies are on Fridays at 2.45pm in the school hall and provide an opportunity to share the highlights from the week. Children are proud of what they have achieved and we look forward to seeing you there.



Yours sincerely
Helen Dutton