



Main Road, Smalley Derbyshire DE7 6EF
01332 880317

Headteacher – Mrs P Atwal

Spring 1 in Class R
A very Happy New Year to you all

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed your Christmas time together. Thank you very much for all our lovely Christmas presents, cards and greetings - they were very much appreciated.

OUR TOPIC - 'Let me tell you a story!'



How wonderful to have us all back together this week; Class R have settled back into the routines of our lovely school beautifully; we are very pleased with them. It has been a pleasure to hear their holiday stories and to see them enjoying the company of their friends once more.

Our new term has begun by remembering Christmas time and celebrating the New Year. We watched the New Year fireworks in London and listened to Big Ben chime. We have been singing about the days of the week each day and thinking about which day is next and what came before. We have discovered that there are 12 months in the year and enjoyed singing about them and talking about our birthdays. We've played 'What time is it Mr Wolf?' and explored how clocks help us to tell the time. Exploration time has been busy with making 2025 celebration hats, making moving pictures, learning a New Year chant and lots of writing practise. All of the children have also enjoyed getting back out into our outdoor provision for some fresh air, frost and fun! It's been a super chilly week but hats, gloves, wellies and hot chocolate, as well as the fascination of ice cracking and snow gazing, has been wonderful!



From next week, our learning will continue to follow the character of the wolf and our learning will be inspired by a wealth of traditional stories, including 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. In future weeks, our exploration will be inspired by finding out about Chinese New Year and looking at how the year of the Snake will

be celebrated in 2025. In week 5, as part of 'National Story Telling Week', we will be looking at our favourite bedtime stories and will have an exciting pyjamas day!

An element of our planning will continue to be driven by your children's interests and reactions to the stories and the learning that they do. We will continue to plan your child's next steps and work within the seven areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) with a focus on the PRIME AREAS - Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional development.



Story time will continue to be a treasured experience for all our children and we have lots of beautiful books to listen to and share.



CEREAL BOX REQUEST PLEASE - Please can you send your child into school next week with an empty cereal box. Please pop their name on it - thank you in advance.

Welly Wednesday



We continue with 'Welly Wednesday' and follow the seasons and this week. Thank you for returning wellies and puddle suits all ready for the term ahead. It has been a chilly but dry week, so we have wrapped up warm to continue to enjoy our outside play environment. Next Wednesday, we will join The Big School Birdwatch and make some food balls for the birds to eat in winter. We will learn that there are lots of different types of birds and we will be looking for them outside.

Thank you again for providing your child with a puddle suit and wellies; this allows your child not only to fully engage in Welly Wednesday but also to go outside whatever the weather if they want to. Water play is a little less soggy too! Children support one another to zip up their puddle suits and coats and everyone has made real progress to become independent with this. PLEASE can you pop a SPARE PAIR OF SOCKS into your child's book bag. We will send puddle suits and wellies home again at the end of the term for a freshen up - thank you.

Boogie Beats



What a lovely time we had just before Christmas when we visited the residents at Smalley Hall. This intergenerational project encourages links with our youngest people and eldest people in our community, bringing them together with the love of story and music.

Future dates are:

Friday 24th January 2025

Friday 28th February 2025
Friday 28th March 2025
Friday 25th April 2025
Friday 23rd May 2025
Friday 27th June 2025

If you are able to support us by walking down and back on these dates, we will greatly appreciate this. Please let one of us know if you are able. Thank you.

Reading



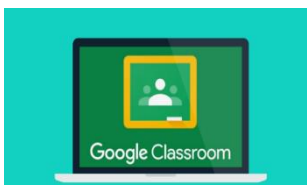
Thank you for all of your support with your child's reading development. We have now moved onto Phase 3 sounds. I have popped a new sound mat into your child's reading diary, which shows the progression of the digraphs and trigraphs that we will be learning. There will be a phase 3 phonics drop-in meeting at 3.00-3.25 in the hall, on Tuesday, 21st and Thursday, 23rd January (same content on both days), for any parents who would like to come and find out about this next phase. If you can't make these dates but would like to find out more, please let me know and I'll sort a convenient time to meet with you.

We ask that your child continues to read their school book at least 3 times a week for about 5 minutes each time - this regular practice helps your child to learn and consolidate the skills that they learn every day in our phonics sessions and in our continuous play. The 'Teach your Monster to Read' can continue to support your child's phonic journey.

This Spring term, your child can continue to gain certificates and small awards for reading their school book at home. We count the number of reads of their school book on a Thursday and then celebrate these in class on a Friday morning.

I will be sending home copies of the phonic writing practise sheets for you to use with your child, which helps to consolidate the letter formation and the sound knowledge that we are teaching at school.

Our website and Google Classroom



We will continue to share our Class R learning on our school website: <https://richardsonendowed.co.uk/> and Teddy Tales through Google Classroom. Thank you for the Teddy Bear adventure photographs that we have received so far, the children are always so proud to share their adventures and the children are really starting to develop their understanding and confidence of asking their peers relevant questions to find out more. Please upload these to the new Spring folder on Google Classroom.

PE

PE lessons will continue to be on a Tuesday and Thursday morning; please send your child in their PE kit on these days - please ensure they have something warm on, as they will be accessing outside during learning time and at lunchtimes. We will be focusing on Gymnastics this term.



Lunch

Lunch time always brings much excitement and pleasure in Class R! Your child continues to have the choice of a school dinner from the main menu or an alternative choice (please see the menu), which are ordered in advance from the school office. Your child may also bring a packed lunch if they would like to. Children are using their manners in the dining hall and becoming more confident when cutting up their own food with their knife and forks. Please continue to encourage and support this at home.

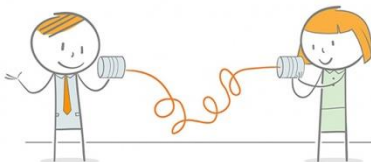


Snack time



Children are encouraged throughout the day to drink from their water bottle and keep hydrated. Please do try to support us with our **water only** policy which promotes and supports oral hygiene. Cool Milk continues to provide our fresh milk and is free if your child is 4. Once your child is 5 and they would like to continue to have milk, then you will need to sign your child up to the milk scheme. This half term, our fruit selection will include pears, carrots, apples, oranges and bananas. Please feel welcome to send your child with a fruit snack if they prefer a different fruit or vegetable. Just one snack per day is sufficient thank you.

Communication



Talking and communicating continues to be extremely important and high priority in supporting your child's learning journey. It's always good to see one another in the morning and talk at the end of the day or on the telephone if required. Please continue to contact the office on 01332 880317, if you require to speak with one of the team. You can of course also write us a message in your child's reading diary as we endeavour to read these daily.

We are really looking forward to the term ahead.

kindest wishes,

Mrs Reckless, Class Teacher

Mrs Walters, Miss Evans (Teaching Assistants) & Mrs Gregory (HLTA)

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