

Dear Parents,

What we have enjoyed this week

This week, we have been thinking about winter and stars. On Monday, the children enjoyed making our 'Curiosity Cloud'. On the cloud, we write what the children would like to learn about each week. This week, the children wanted to know if you could hold a star and why stars twinkle. We also decided that we would like to read some stories about winter and stars.

During Mega Mathematics, the children enjoyed playing games to develop their understanding of positional language. They discovered that something looks smaller when it is further away. It was a surprise to many to discover that the tiny stars in the sky were actually huge luminous balls of gas, and an even more amazing revelation was that our very own warm sun was in fact a star.

The children enjoyed listening to the story 'One Snowy Night' about Percy the Park Keeper and his animal friends who take shelter from the snow in Percy's wooden hut. Everyone enjoyed completing their **Picture Detectives** work, using the picture of Percy and the animals asleep in different parts of the hut. The children had to use their new positional language vocabulary to describe and write where one of the animals was sleeping. All the children did an amazing job of this and it is clear to see that they are becoming thoughtful and confident writers.

On Thursday, Mrs Ashworth read the story 'Laura's Star' during Mrs Ashworth's magical story time. In the story, Laura found a special star friend who she loved very much. Laura discovered that her star was sick and that she had to send it back to the sky. We thought about the word 'sacrifice' and decided that Laura had sacrificed her happiness in keeping the star, so that the star could be happy in the sky.

We spoke about doing things for other people and decided that it would be a nice idea to make a wish upon a star for somebody else. All the children thought of a wish they could make for someone; we wrote them on special stars that now hang in the classroom, to remind us of the importance of kindness.

The children have also enjoyed listening to the story 'Goodnight Spaceman' by Michelle Robinson. The story is about two little boys who miss their daddy, an astronaut out in space. The boys in the story had a lovely time pretending to be astronauts just like their daddy. We discussed how playing pretend games can help us feel closer to people that we miss when they are away.

During PE, the children developed their fundamental movement skills using the story 'How to Catch a Star' by Oliver Jeffers as inspiration. Everyone has been just like Tryalot, working hard to balance, throw and catch their imaginary stars.

### **Come and See**

Our 'Come and See' for this half term will be on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm. Parents and carers are invited to come into school to share some of the experiences and activities the children have completed and enjoyed this half term. Please sign in at the main entrance on arrival at school. The children will present some of the topics explored this half term and there will be an opportunity to engage in a range of activities with your child. Please do not worry if you cannot attend due to other commitments. We always ensure that all children have the opportunity to work with an adult.

### **Homework**

This week, I would like the children to continue to practise the songs for our Christmas nativity and 'have a go' at reading the sounds and tricky words in their Phonics wallet. I would also like to challenge them to use as many different positional language words as they can over the weekend. They can make a list of these in their learning diary if they wish, or just talk about these with a grown-up.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Hope

### **NB:**

Positional language words are words that describe the position of something, for example:

- The book is **on top** of the cupboard
- The giraffe is behind the tree.

