

January Newsletter P.1.

Dear Parents:

Christmas is over and the children have settled back into school routine. We can see lots of parents are making the effort to promote independence which is encouraging your child's personal development. Well done! Please note that on a dry morning children are expected to be on the yard and line up when the bell goes at 8.55am. There will always be a teacher on duty from 8.45am. On wet mornings the children should line up in the hall. It would be helpful if the cloakroom area could be left free for ease of access. Please ensure that the children wear school uniform every day. You will be given an opportunity to meet your child's teacher in early February. Times and dates will follow.

Our main topic for this month will be Winter.

Focus for the month: Try some of these ideas with your child.

Encourage your child to tell you about what we are doing in school.

Writing: Writing the letters in our names and naming the letters in our name. Holding a pencil. Writing from left to right. Proper formation of the letters a,b,c,d,e, and f. All the children need practice with cutting. Give them plenty of opportunity with scrap paper, newspaper etc. Point out writing and signs when you are out and about. The children have already made some signs and labels for our own class shops. Encourage your child to write at their own level. Use as many different tools (markers, gel pens, chalk, playdough)

Reading: The children are learning about title, page, print, picture, author, illustrator, words, full stop etc. Talk about these things when a book is sent home. The children are learning to match spoken to written word. Encourage your child to point to the words and follow as you read. Continue to listen to them sing alphabet songs or use actions. We are focusing on the letters d/e/f and the sound they make in words whilst revising the others covered so far. Can your child give you a word that rhymes with hat, coat etc.

Talking and listening: Observe and talk the changes around us, and talk to your child about Winter.

Maths: Counting rhymes, Hickory Dickory Dock, 1/2/3/4/5, Baa Baa black sheep, Three blind mice, 5 little ducks etc. Counting to 10. Use different starting and finishing points. Clap and count, slap knees and count, jump and count. Looking out for numbers around you- in shops, front doors, cars etc. Putting out sets of four/five. Put out 4 forks, 4 spoons etc.

World around us: Seasonal changes. Talk about the signs of Winter. Describing and naming fabrics, wool, fur, cord, cotton etc.

Physical Development: Encourage your child to be physically active.

Religion: Children will be taking home their alive-o books. Talk to your child about their homework page.

All this information will be available on our school website www.holyfamily-ps.org.uk