**ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH of ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL**

**5TH November 2018**

Dear Parents,

I hope you all have had a lovely half-term; I can’t wait to hear what you have all been up to.

This newsletter will outline details of the work we will be covering over the next few weeks with suggestions as to how you can support learning at home.

Our topic this term is ‘Julia Donaldson Stories.’ We will be looking at how her stories are structured with a key focus on rhyme. From the different stories the children will developing an awareness of different story settings, characters and weather. At home you could:

* Share some of Julia Donaldson stories together and find the rhyming words
* Discuss different setting that stories take place in
* Discuss changes and patterns of weather
* Draw and label a favourite character

**Communication, Language and Literacy Focus**

Literacy this half term will continue to have a focus on segmenting for writing and blending for reading. Children will read a variety of Julia Donaldson stories, which will act as a stimulus for writing labels, sentences, lists and letters. In the run up to Christmas, we will also be sharing Christmas themed stories and writing our Christmas lists.

Following our Julia Donaldson theme, Seven Stories are coming into school on Thursday 15th November. This workshop has a range of multisensory activities to enrich children’s understanding and create meaningful book experiences. The cost of this work shop will be £7:50 and can be paid through parent mail.

Children will be entering the Phase 3 stage of our phonic programme. Lots of consolidation work will also be done on the phase 2 letter sounds to develop children’s confidence in recognising letters and connecting them to their corresponding sounds. I thank you all for the hard work that you are putting in at home with your child’s reading and writing; it is really showing and it is wonderful to see each child’s confidence and eagerness to read and write increase.

Phase 2

Set 1: s, a, t, p

Set 2: I, n, m, d

Set 3: g, o, c, k

Set 4: ck, e, u, r

Set 5: h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss

Phase 3

Set 6: j, v, w, x

Set 7: y, z, zz, qu

Graphemes: ch, sh, th, ng, ai, ee, igh, oo, oa

**Individual readers and words**

Can reading books and records please be kept in your child’s book bag as I will continue to read with your child at least once a week. Words and homework challenges will continue to go home on Thursday and Library books will continue to be changed on Friday.

**Mathematics**

Children will continue to engage in practical activities that promote skills of matching numeral to quantity with numbers up to 10 and then to 20. Children will also be solving problems that involve them working out the total number of objects in two groups. Children will also be introduced to subtracting this half term and will be working out 1 less than numbers to 10 and above. Children will also be introduced to money this half term where will look at different coins and the everyday language used relating to money.

**PE**

PE will continue to be on a Thursday this half term. PE kits should be left in school (on cloakroom pegs) and should contain a pair of well-fitting plimsolls for outdoor lessons. It would be very helpful if any child with long hair could have their hair tied up in a ponytail on these days too.

If you have any queries or questions please do not hesitate to catch one of us at the end of the school day.

Yours Sincerely

Miss Leigh

This half term we are in need of small sticks and twigs if you find any on your adventures. We will be using the sticks to make weather wands and representations of stick man following our Julia Donaldson theme.

**Reminders**

* Could book bags be brought in everyday with your child’s reading books and records
* Could all uniform be labelled
* Could you ensure warm outdoor clothing is provided as some activities are carried out outdoors

Thanking You

**Dates for your diary:**

07/11/18 – Diwali

08/11/18 – School disco 5-6:30

15/11/18 – Seven stories workshop

16/11/18 – Children in need

21/11/18 – World hello day

28/11/18 – Julia Donaldson day

12/12/18 – Christmas stay and play 9:15

14/12/18 – Save the children Christmas jumper day

17/12/18 – Flu immunizations

18/12/18 – EYFS nativity 9:30

18/12/18 – EYFS party pm

19/12/18 – EYFS nativity 2pm

20/12/18 – PTFA film night

21/12/18 – School closes for Christmas holidays