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

9th January 2019

**Reception Newsletter**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope everyone has had a fantastic Christmas break and is feeling ready for the term ahead. After enjoying the break, ourselves we are now ready and excited to welcome your lovely children back into school.

This half term we will be exploring the topic of ‘Journeys’. We will be reading several stories related to travelling to space, as well as other stories linked to journeys. Our first story is ‘Whatever Next!’ By Jill Murphy, which is about a bear who embarks on a journey to the moon, where he shares a picnic with an owl. At home you could:

* Read stories related to going to space or on a journey.
* Discuss journeys that you have been on as a family.

**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 journey related stories, which will act as a stimulus for sequencing, writing labels, sentences, lists and letters. We will also be learning about Chinese New Year, which will be featured in the children’s writing. In Phonics, the children will be introduced to Phase 3 phonics as a part of the Letters and Sounds phonic programme. As well as learning new sounds in Phase 3, the children will be engaged in activities which will consolidate their learning of Phase 2 sounds. This will increase the children’s confidence when recognising letters and when blending and segmenting to read and write.

Here are the sounds that we have learned in Phase 2:

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

Here are the sounds and graphemes which the children are learning in Phase 3:

Phase 3

Set 6: j, v, w, x

Set 7: y, z, zz, qu

Graphemes: ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, ure, er.

**Individual readers and words**

In regards to reading books and reading records, please can I ask that these are kept in your child’s book bag and are returned to school every day. I will be reading with your child at least once a week and you will receive 2 reading books to read with your child.

Homework challenges and reading challenges will continue to be sent home on a **Thursday**. The children’s Library Books will now be changed on a **Thursday**, so will need to be returned to school each Thursday to ensure that your child receives a new book to take home. 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.

**Mathematics**

In Mathematics the children will continue to engage in practical activities which include matching a numeral to a quantity with numbers up to 10 and 20. The children will be introduced to finding 1 less and 1 more than a given number. We will be also be measuring by height, length, weight and capacity. The children will be engaged in 2D and 3D shape activities, as well as making repeating patterns.

**PE**

PE will be on a Monday 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.

**Trips**

This term we will be going on a visit to Gibside on the 12th February. To enable this, we will require parent helpers. If you are able to attend please let Miss Baharie or Miss Leigh know.

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 Baharie & Miss Leigh.

Wish list:

I would really appreciate it if you could send in toilet roll/ or kitchen roll tubes as we will be making rockets.

**Reminders**

* Could all uniform be labelled
* Could you ensure warm outdoor clothing is provided as some activities are carried out outdoors

Thank You !

**Dates for your diary:**

**Wednesday 9th January- NEAT Consultation for parents-Meeting at 5pm.**

**Friday 18th January- Nursery & Reception “Winnie the Pooh Day”**

**Friday 25th January- Nursery & Reception “Opposites Day”**

**Tuesday 5th February- Safer Internet Day**

**Monday 11th February- “Love is…” Day**

**Tuesday 12th February- Nursery & Reception visit to Gibside.**

**Thursday 14th February- PTFA Film night**

**Friday 15th February- PTFA Cake Stall after school & school closes for half term.**