



Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope everyone has had a super half term break and is rested; ready for a very busy half term leading up to Christmas. We start this half term with a focus on Bonfire Night and introducing the children to our linking schools project (see separate letter) before spending a couple of weeks learning all about the 'People who help us'. We aim to visit Ilkley Fire Station and have a visit from our local Community Support Officer, who will speak to the children about their role and keeping safe. National Road Safety Awareness week begins the 18th November and Mrs Brooke will speak to the class about road safety. We will also be having a visit from a local doctor and dentist. However, the trip to the fire station and visit from the CSO depends on the availability of these services. If you feel your job or experience suits this topic and you are happy to come into school and talk to the class about your job or experiences, please let Miss Alston know and we can arrange a suitable time.

We will then be spending a couple of weeks being Pirates. We will learn about the life of a pirate, make some pirate props, speak some pirate lingo, go on a treasure hunt and play some pirate games. We will have a Pirate Day on Thursday 5th December so your child will need to come to school dressed as a Pirate for the day. We will send out a reminder nearer the time.

Then we will be learning all about Christmas and enjoying the festivities that go along with it. The Reception children will take part in the Nativity so we will be learning songs; making Christmas crafts and learning about the story of Christmas. I have booked to take the class to Otley Courthouse on Wednesday 18th December to see a production of Jack Frost. I will send a separate letter out about this trip very soon and if you are able to help on the trip, please let me know.

This half term I will introduce 'Learnology - thinking about how we learn' to your child. It is all about the learning skills and what makes a good learner. There are five learning heroes; Reggie Relationship, Rosie Ready, Richard Resilient, Ronnie Resourceful and Rachel Reflective. They all have their own special learning powers. Each week our Learning Hero in class will need to demonstrate the particular power that we have been learning about. They will be rewarded with 25 house points and receive a special postcard. Our Learning Hero for this half term is Reggie Relationships. His learning powers include; being a good listener and thinking about what is being said, being a good team player, being an independent learner and understanding other people's feelings.

For information about the learning which is taking place in the classroom; remember to check the Reception page on the school website. You will find a summary of what has

happened each week, including details about the activities going on as well as the learning which has taken place in literacy, maths, PE etc. Planning and activities are based on children's needs and interests therefore things are subject to change and so it is more helpful to provide you with information retrospectively about the learning and then you are able to support and further your child's learning building on what has happened in the classroom that week.

If you did not receive a copy of your child's learning journey for last half term, could you let me know and I will resend it. Please share any WOW moments your child has with us; you can either fill in a WOW form or email Miss Alston or reply to the 2Build a profile email link.

Please continue to check your child's hair for head lice / eggs and treat regularly. It is helpful if you could let a member of staff know if your child has had head lice. We can then send an email around asking all parents to check children's hair.

Remember if your child becomes ill please ring the school office to inform us of their absence. If your child is suffering from sickness or diarrhoea they need to be off school for 48 hours, from the last episode of sickness. We can only give medication which has been prescribed by the Doctor and you will need to fill out a consent form for this. If your child has an appointment, for example a medical appointment, please go to the school office and fill out a form to notify the school of the absence.

Also, discourage your child from bringing toys to school as they can become lost or broken. 'Show and Tell' continues this half term with Aire starting on Friday 15th November followed by Nidd, Swale and then Wharfe. Information is on the website.

Stay and play sessions begin this half term with the first being on Thursday 7th November. All the dates are on the website.

Lastly, please make sure all items of clothing are named, including hats, scarves and gloves. Items which are named usually find their way back to the Early Years team and we can then return them to you or your child. As the weather is turning colder please can you make sure your child is suitably dressed for this as we do go outside in all weathers including rain, wind and snow!

If you have any questions or concerns please let us know and we will try to help the best we can. Miss Alston is available before and after school, generally after school is better as there is usually more time. You can telephone / email the office and they will pass on your messages. Or you can email me directly.

Thank you,
Miss. L. Alston and Mrs B. Shaw