



Friday 1st December 2017

Dear Parents

The Gruffalo

This week, we have been incredibly busy learning about the Gruffalo. Throughout the week, the children made character props including Gruffalo headbands and snake bracelets and produced detailed paintings showing their mixing skills! The children have also built log pile houses from construction materials and created their own Gruffalo in the malleable area using scented playdough and variety of embellishments. We used these to practise counting how many prickles and then compared them to work out who had more or less. The children have also explored our underwater world in the outdoor learning area using their imagination to develop narratives about the creatures in the woods.



Christmas Nativity

The children have been practising their speaking parts and singing the nativity songs on a daily basis. On Thursday, the children performed on stage in costume for their first full dress rehearsal. I am so proud of their confidence and perseverance. Details of costumes and speaking parts were sent home on Wednesday in book bags. Please practise these with your child next week in preparation for the performance on Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th December 2017.

Mathematical Development

The children have been learning to add so that we can count the total number of prickles on the Gruffalo's back. They have created number sentences using objects and numerals and learnt mathematical signs such as '+' and '='. The children thoroughly enjoyed this new concept.

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National Support School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership



Headteacher: Mrs T Swinburne

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Literacy Development

The focus this week has been on hearing and saying the sounds in simple words so that they can write a sentence about their nativity costume. They are now getting confident with this and have produced some fantastic work.

Homework

Homework is to learn the new actions words (1.9) in the blue homework book and complete the action word sheets. Please ensure this is returned to School on Wednesday 6th December 2017.

Mrs. Ward

Many of you will have noticed that Mrs. Ward is still not back. Unfortunately, she has been instructed by the doctors to stay off school until after Christmas due to ensuring sufficient healing after her operation. Get well soon, Mrs Ward!

Luckily, in the meantime, Mrs. Rex will be in Reception on a Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday and Mrs. Pickersgill- who is our early and after school care manager and a very experienced Nursery

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Nurse will be in Reception on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in the lead up until Christmas. They will ably support myself and Mrs. Sellars.

'Bold Beginnings' Ofsted Reception Year Report

We were pleased to have been asked to contribute to the newly published Ofsted report, 'Bold Beginnings'. 41 successful schools across the country were asked to take part in the research to inform their report into what a successful Reception year should look like. As you know, at JCA we are passionate about children receiving a holistic curriculum, nurturing children's personal and social development, developing their confidence and ensuring that they have a firm foundation in literacy and mathematical development. All this in balance, ensures that they successfully learn in a fully rounded way, supporting their development.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Burrows, Mrs Sellars and Mrs Ward

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