

**Spring Term 1 Newsletter**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after the Christmas holidays. I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and I am looking forward to the exciting work we have got planned this half term.

The children are making fantastic progress with their reading. It is lovely to see how enthusiastic they are when they read to an adult. We do a daily phonics session which teaches the children the skills of learning to read. We also do individual reading times to allow children to talk about their story and develop comprehension skills. Please continue to read 5 times every week at home and remember to sign the reading diary. Reading folders need to be in school every day.

We are working hard to develop our writing skills. This half term we will be writing some character descriptions and looking at settings of stories. We will continue with our independent sentence writing during morning work. We will also practise our writing skills through Continuous Provision activities.

In Maths we are beginning to use numbers above 10. We are learning how to count accurately and how to count objects which can’t be moved. We will be continuing with writing numbers independently. As part of the Early Years curriculum we will also be learning about ordering by size, measuring and capacity. We will be doing lots of practical activities to help us learn.

Our topic this half term is Winter and Polar Animals. We are beginning with The Gruffalo where we are looking at the setting in the snowy woods. We will then be using the book ‘Lost and Found’ to look at polar animals, the Arctic and Antarctica. This topic lends itself well to lots of experiments with ice and defrosting.

As part of our work on The Gruffalo’s Child we are going to do some baking. We are going to make ‘Gruffalo crumble’. As we begin to work on polar animals, we will make some animal biscuits.

We will continue to have PE on a Friday afternoon. Please make sure a full PE kit is in school for every lesson. It needs to be labelled clearly to avoid any mix up. Earrings should be removed or they can be covered with tape.

As the weather is very cold at the moment and we do go outdoors please provide a warm coat, hat and gloves every day.

Please remember to check our class page on the school website. It is updated regularly with messages and photographs. Twitter is another way to see some of the work that is happening. Follow us at @Firbeck Primary.

Finally if you have any queries please come and see me. I am always happy to help.

Thank you,

Mrs L. Johnstone (Reception class teacher)