

# Foundation News

December 2017

## Elsewhere in School...

- Key Stage 1 put on two fantastic performances of their Christmas show, with over 150 parents and family members coming in to watch.
- Our Year 5/6 Basketball team finished third in the Stevenage Festival
- Year 2 visited one of our local churches, St Andrew and St George, to learn about the Christmas Story.
- Our non-uniform day for Children in Need raised over £280 for charity.
- Year 1 took part in the Stevenage Mini-Olympics, trying out a huge range of sports at the Leisure Centre.
- Year 1 and 2 invited their families into school to share mince pies and a good book in the last week before Christmas.
- The windows are nearly finished! After two months of hard work, our team of builders only have a few panels left!

## What we've been doing this term...

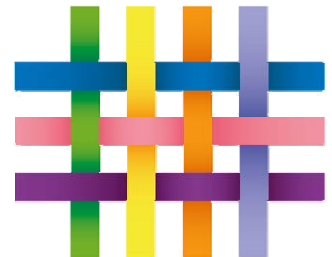
### Book Week 2017

We joined the whole school in taking part in this year's *Spooktacular* Reading Week, sharing some of our favourite stories, meeting authors and taking part in the Book Swap. One of the highlights for Reception was a visit from the brilliant author and illustrator James Mayhew, who told us a story whilst drawing an amazing picture to illustrate it right in front of our eyes!



### Tapestry

Our children have loved the fact that we have been able to share their Tapestry journals with you this half term! We have seen children become really excited to share what their parents have been putting online, and this in turn has undoubtedly helped the development of speaking, listening and communication skills. Our children also enjoy talking to their friends about what has been put online via the app and this has helped strengthen friendships and connect children through common interests and experiences



If you still have not activated your Tapestry account please ensure you talk to your child's teacher as you can see their learning everyday and keep up-to-date with everything that is going on in Nursery and Reception, as well as adding observations, pictures and information of your own.

## Child Initiated Learning

Throughout the term, we have had the chance to try out a huge range of activities, linked to our topics, learning and interests, and as we have developed and become more settled in our classes, we have engaged with these more and more. As a result, many of us have made fantastic progress over the last few months, with our language and listening skills improving particularly well. We always look forward to finding out what new activities have appeared in our rooms each day, and are also keen to find new ways to explore, use and play with the equipment and resources around us.

We have picked out a few of our favourite moments from this half-term to share with you on these pages...



Riley busy writing his friends names



Kamilla deciding her Christmas list



Keeping warm running around outside!



Jahrell finds the missing numbers



Frayah measures the pencil using cubes



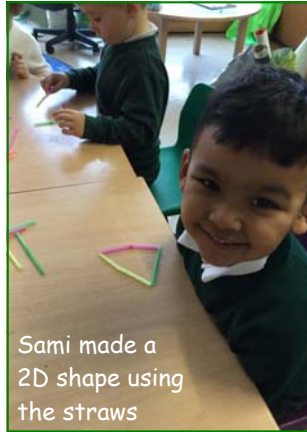
Max and Toby explore their marks



Ilyesse, James and Millie explore the ice



Drawing and talking!



## Notices

- With the colder weather having set-in, please make sure your child comes to school with a named coat and gloves - we go outside in all weathers!
- Please ensure that all clothes are named to avoid mix ups during PE.
- We will continue changing library books every Wednesday in Nursery and every Friday in Reception. Please try to read with your child at least three times a week.
- A big thank-you to everyone who has contributed £1 towards our weekly cooking and snack, helping to enrich our learning further. This will continue in the new term, so please remember to contribute each week.

## Diary Dates

### 4th January

Start of Spring Term

### 7th February

Parents Evening

### 12th-16th February

Half-term

### 21st February

Year 5/6 Sportshall Athletics

### 2nd March

Inset day - school closed

### 23rd - 25th March

Year 6 PGL trip

### 29th March

End of Spring Term

### 17th April

Start of Summer Term

# Christmas!

It has been a busy half term for us, all building up towards Christmas! We have loved celebrating together and having Nursery and Reception in the same classrooms for the festive period. We have decorated trees, made mince pies, gingerbread, cards and calendars and learnt new songs. We also really enjoyed our Christmas Craft morning last Friday, and were delighted that so many of our family members were able to come and join us for bauble making fun!



One of our favourite moments was going Letchworth theatre to watch a fantastic production of *Dear Santa* - it was amazing to see how the book was brought to life, and for lots of us it was our first ever trip to the theatre.

