

Dear Parents and carers,

In our literacy this week, we have been practising the sounds that we have already learnt. We revisited the digraphs and trigraphs including 'sh', 'ch', 'th', 'ng', 'ai', 'ee', 'igh', 'oa', 'oo' (long and short), 'ar' and 'or'. Over the break, please practise writing these sounds, ensuring that each letter has a correct starting point. Please see if your child can identify the sounds and find them in words.

Over the break, you could play phonics games on phonicsplay.com. There are many games where you can practise reading words with the digraphs and trigraphs in as well as spelling words. We recommend 'pick a picture', 'tricky word trucks' and 'buried treasure'. We have sent home two reading books for the Christmas holidays. Please continue to read with your child at home, writing in their reading record each time you have heard them. On our return, we will hear every child read and will give your child a new book. A little time spent reading every day makes such a difference. Please also practise reading the flashcards with your child.

This week we have been getting into the festive spirit. We watched the pantomime and joined in saying 'it's behind you', 'boo' and 'ahhh'. The children were really enthusiastic. Thank you to the PTFA for providing popcorn. We also showed them the whole school nativity. We hope you agree that it was fantastic. On Wednesday, we had our Christmas lunch. The children each wore a hat that they had made and in the afternoon we sang Christmas songs. Our Christmas outfits made us all feel very Christmassy. We have explored Christmas crafts and every child has made a hat for our Christmas lunch, a tree decoration and a calendar. We hope you like them.

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this term. We have really enjoyed getting to know your children and all of you as much as we can in such unusual times. We would also like to thank you for your generosity to our team for Christmas. We really appreciate your kindness.

We hope you have a really fantastic Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you back on January 4th. Stay safe, keep washing your hands and please continue to follow government guidelines regarding Coronavirus.

Best wishes,

Natasha Lewis, Tracey Mansfield, Laura Mercurio and the EYFS team