



Fritcham Church of England Primary Academy

Executive Head: Mrs J Gardener

Church Road, Fritcham, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE31 6BU Tel: 01485 600383
Email: office@fritcham.norfolk.sch.uk Web: www.fritcham.dneat.org



Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year everybody! We hope that you all had a lovely Christmas holiday and that you and your children are feeling refreshed and ready for a busy Spring term.

In this letter we would just like to outline some of the learning that we are planning for this half of the term.

Our **topics** are going to be Winter and the Chinese New Year. Our Winter theme will include signs of Winter, snow and ice investigations & looking after our birds during the Winter. We will also continue to develop vocabulary through exploration of the changing state of matter using the Ogden Trust science exploration materials. Forest School will enhance children's interest in the natural environment, developing their own narrative by connecting ideas/experiences.

The Chinese New Year is an interesting, colourful festival and one which we include every year as there are so many varied and exciting learning opportunities, for example through dance, re-enacting the story of the 'Great Race' exploring different types of writing, crafts, symbols and artefacts and much more. Children will be encouraged to explain similarities and differences between their own personal experiences of special times and celebrations. As in previous years, we are hoping to organise a whole-school visit to a Chinese Restaurant for a chance to taste Chinese cuisine and a first-hand experience of customs and traditions.

In **Literacy** at this stage of the children's writing development there will be continued focus on preparation for writing, for example, how to hold the pencil correctly using a pincer grip and it is important that they have first-hand experiences of writing, it would help if your child sees you writing, please support by looking for opportunities for writing together e.g. a shopping list or a thank you letter.

We will be continuing our daily Phonics lessons (Little Wandle) and will be continuing with consonant digraphs (two consonants that make a single sound e.g. **ch, sh, th**) vowel digraphs (e.g. **ai, ee igh oa, oo**) Please continue to practice reading last term's tricky words with your child, **remember** these cannot be decoded! New tricky words this half term, **was, you, they, my, by, all, are, sure, pure.**

This term we will be encouraging children to anticipate and retell key events in stories, reading our old favourites, Traditional Tales. If you have these books at home, please read them with your child and encourage your child to retell using their own narratives, the books we will start with are; 3 Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood, 3 Billy Goats Gruff etc. Alternatively, if you have these books at home and would like to share with us, we can read them, keep them safe and return them to you when finished!





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In **Mathematics** the children will continue to build up their subitising and counting skills in teacher led and continuous provision in the indoor and outdoor environment. The children will be looking at 3D shapes, describing their properties and seeing if they can find 3D shapes in the environment. Please feel free to continue this learning when you are at home or out and about, spotting cones, cubes, cuboids and cylinders. We will also be recapping on repeating patterns and looking at patterns in numbers. Here are a couple of websites for mathematic games you can try at home.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games>

www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html

We would love you to share your child's interests, achievements and experiences with us on Tapestry, so we can get to know your child further and it helps to follow the children's lines of enquiry to enhance their learning. Please feel free to post on Tapestry as the children do love to share their photos with the class.

If you would like to know anything further please do not hesitate to ask one of the Early Years Foundation Stage Team.

Kind Regards

Mrs Sewell, Mrs Cousins, Miss Reed, Mrs Mott and Miss Wing.

