

*Welcome back to Bananas Class and a Happy New Year to you all!*

We hope that you have had an enjoyable break with your child. We are all very excited about our new topic and we have lots of fun and exciting activities planned.

This term our topic is '**What's the weather like today?**' This topic is all about **WINTER**. Our weekly themes will include:

Winter Animals

Winter Weather

Winter Festivals

Keeping Warm

**Reading** - This term we will be reading the following stories: Snow Bears, Little Penguin, The Polar Bear Paddle, The jacket I wore in the snow, and The Great Race. We will use both story sacks and sensory trays to support our learning and to develop our understanding of the story.

**Maths** - In maths, we will participate in a variety of activities relating to numbers and shape, space, and measure. We will explore heavy and light objects, match quantity to numeral, pair socks and gloves and recreate the Chinese New Year race with a focus on ordinal numbers.

**Outdoor curriculum** - The outdoor area is an important part of our classroom and as such the children will be using it for their learning in all weathers. Please ensure that they come to school dressed appropriately for any weather and If you have not already done so, please send in a spare set of named clothes so that we can change your child's clothes if necessary. Please make sure all items of clothes, including coats, are labelled.

**Phonics** - Our daily phonics sessions will focus on environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body percussion, rhythm and rhyme and voice sounds. We will also continue to learn the sounds that letters make (phonemes) with a focus on a 'Sound of the week'. The children will then be supported to segment and blend these sounds to spell and read words. We would be grateful if you could continue to help your child to find something beginning with the letter sound of the week to put in their phonics bag so that they can show it in class. In these current circumstances we need to continue our request that all items sent in from home are

wipeable. Thank you so much for your participation with this; the children love sharing their objects from home with us!

Below is a list of dates and the letter sound for that week:

<b>4<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>n</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>p</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>g</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>o</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> February</b> <b>c</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>k</b>

Our weekly '**Play Dough Disco**' sessions will support each child to develop their hand and finger strength as they poke, pinch, splat, roll, and squeeze the dough to the song 'If you're happy and you know it!' Developing hand and finger strength will enable the children to engage in '**Kinetic Letters**' activities to develop our handwriting skills. We will also use our magic wands to participate in big air writing and use the Lynx Clevertouch Interactive Whiteboard for mark making activities.

***How you can help:***

- Please read to your child/share a book with them every day and record this in their yellow reading record.
- Please continue to send in your 'wow' post-it notes; it is really lovely to celebrate your child's home achievements with them.
- Please ensure your child has these items in school every day - book bag, home school book, snack & drink/lunch & drink **[NO NUTS]**, spare pair of clothes, underwear and socks - all items to be labelled with their name.

*If you have any other concerns or questions, please communicate with us via your child's Home School book.*

*Many Thanks,*

*Ellen, Jade, Payton & Kyran*