



Reception Weekly Newsletter – 29th November 2021

Another fantastic and very very busy week of learning in Reception! We are so proud of all our children! They performed so enthusiastically in their Christmas show dress rehearsal. We saw lots of beaming smiles and excited faces as they dressed up in their costumes - definite Oscar winning performances! Alongside the festive fun, the children have been thinking about some of the things that make us unique and have discussed that one of the things that makes us unique is our family. We live in different houses or some of our family might live away from us and some of our family might live in a different country. We have been learning all the different ways to say hello and practised saying hello in different languages when answering the register too. Another activity the children have been keen to get busy this week is gathering a clipboard and going around the class asking their friend what their favourite colour is or what their favourite animal is and recording their finding using tally marks and pictures in a pictogram. Did you know that a dog is a Reception firm favourite and many wish they had a turtle!

Now for next week's fun - please see below a brief summary of what your child will be up to at school as well as a few reminders. If you have any questions, please email office.hisn@hpp.school and we will try and get back to you as quickly as possible.

This week we will be learning- Week Beginning 6th December

- This week our Story of the Week is 'Kipper's Birthday' by Mick Inpen. The children will be discussing what usually happens when it is somebody's birthday and find out if we all celebrate our birthdays in the same way. The children will be making and roleplaying birthday parties as they mould birthday cakes, cookies and cupcakes out of playdough. The children will also be using their writing skills and getting crafty as they make birthday cards, birthday banners and write their birthday list.
- In phonics, we will continue to introduce the children to some new sounds: k/ l/ r/ u. Along with these sounds, we continue to recap all the sounds we have learnt so far: b/ g/ h/ c/ a/ i/ m/ s/ t/ n/ o/ p/ d/ v/ f/ e. The children will be building these sounds into simple words and will then have a go at writing them down, thinking about the letter formation. Our Everyday words for this week are: Mum, Dad.
- In maths the children will be learning how to add and subtract amounts as well as finding the totals up to 5. The children will be using their math skills to decipher number sentences and discover how many more passengers need to join the bus to complete their number sentence.

Some important information and reminders:

- **Christmas Show:** Just a quick reminder of the Reception Xmas show dates. On **Monday 6th December**, RF and RDC are to perform at **2.15pm**. On **Tuesday 7th December**, RY and RW are to perform at **2.15pm**. The show will last approximately 30 minutes with a finishing time of 2.45pm. Once the children have performed, they will go back to their classroom to gather their belongings and will leave school in



costume. Reception home time will remain as normal with pick up at 2.50pm in the Reception Playground.

- **Christmas show day:** On the day of your Xmas show, please send your child into school wearing all black clothing. This will support us in getting the children ready before they perform. Black clothing can be a black t-shirt and black jogging bottoms or leggings. If you have already sent black bottoms in with your child's costume, we still please ask that you send your child to school wearing all black.
- **Singing Hands Performance:** On Thursday 9th December, the Reception children will be enjoying a festive singing performance by the wonderful 'Singing Hands'. The children will start off listening to a story and singing nursery rhymes, and will end their singing session singing Christmas songs.
- **Christmas Jumper Day:** On **Monday 13th December** children can wear full mufti with their Christmas jumper (footwear must be appropriate for school both inside and out). Please make any donations of £1 for Save the Children Charity via Parent Pay.
- **Tuesday 14th December Reception Christmas Party:** This is on the **14th December** and on this day the children may come dressed in their party clothes and bring a packed lunch to school. Please refer to the letter for more details on appropriate clothing. Also, a reminder that packed lunches should be **NUT FREE** and can include a sandwich, drink, piece of fruit, packet of crisps and a cheeky Christmas treat.
- **Wednesday 15th December Reception Christmas lunch** - For lunch on **Wednesday 15th December** the children will be enjoying a Christmas lunch. Just a quick note that the children will be wearing their school uniform and will enter the hall as usual but in festive spirit with a Christmas decorated party hat.
- **Playdough resources:** The children are always so immersed in their playdough creations as they mould and sculpt all sorts of wonderful creations, but unfortunately, our playdough ingredients have diminished! If you are happy to donate flour, salt, oil and cream of tartar, we would really appreciate it!
- **Oxford Reading Buddy:** As an extra reading tool for you to access at home, the school has signed up to Oxford Reading Buddy. This is an online tool that gives you and your child access to lots of wonderful books that support your child's reading. Your child will have their own account and you will receive their log in details next Monday.
- **Borrow a Book:** This half term, we are starting our 'Borrow and Book' scheme. This is where each week, alongside their usual reading book, each child will take home a reading for pleasure book. Please do have a look at this book with your child and **remember to bring it back as this will be swapped for a new one on your child's reading day.**
- **School Reading Book:** A friendly reminder to pop your child's school reading book back in their book bag on your child's reading day. Thank you!
- **Junk Modelling resources:** Along with messy play, the children love to build all sorts of wonderful things using all sorts of junk they find around the house. If you



have any junk modelling resources, we would be more than happy to take these. **Just a quick note to say that we are not taking any food boxes or wrappers.** For junk modelling resources ideas, please see below.

- loo roll/kitchen roll tubes
- shoe boxes
- glitter
- pipe cleaners
- pom poms
- bottles and bottle lids
- toothpaste tubes
- straws
- fabric
- googly eyes
- CDs

Cooking at home

We have included a recipe below for you to have a try at home together. With the countdown to Christmas starting, here is something festive for you and your family to enjoy making.

Snowman Cupcakes

Ingredients

For the cupcakes

- 200g/7oz caster sugar
- 175g/6oz plain flour
- 50g/1¾oz cocoa powder
- 1½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- pinch salt
- 100ml/3½fl oz sunflower oil
- 2 large free-range eggs
- 2 tbsp soured cream
- 125ml/4fl oz boiling water





For the buttercream

200g/7oz unsalted butter, softened
400g/14oz icing sugar
1–2 tbsp milk

To decorate

100g/3½oz white ready-to-roll fondant icing
orange food colouring paste
red food colouring paste
12 white marshmallows
black writing icing tube
2 tsp desiccated coconut
12 pretzel sticks, broken in half

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 170C/160C Fan/Gas 3½ and line a 12-hole muffin tin with paper cupcake cases.
2. Sift the sugar, flour, cocoa, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda and salt into a large mixing bowl. Stir in the sunflower oil, eggs and soured cream until smooth. Add the boiling water and beat again until silky smooth.
3. Scoop the batter into a jug and pour evenly between the paper cupcake cases. Bake for 20–22 minutes until well risen and a wooden skewer inserted into the middle of the cakes comes out clean. Leave to cool in the tin for 5 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.
4. To make the buttercream, beat the butter until pale and light, then gradually stir in the icing sugar and milk until smooth.
5. Make the snowman noses with 25g/1oz of the fondant icing. Add tiny dots of orange food colouring paste using a wooden skewer and knead until completely orange. Roll into 12 small carrot shapes about 1cm/½ in long. Leave to dry for 30 minutes.
6. Tint the remaining icing red using the food colouring paste. Dust a work surface with icing sugar and roll into a neat 12cm/4½ in x 6cm/2½ in rectangle. Slice into 12 strips about ½ cm wide, to make the snowman scarves.
7. Use the black writing icing to draw eyes and a mouth onto each marshmallow and stick an icing carrot just below the eyes.
8. Spread the buttercream on top of each cake and press a marshmallow into the icing. Scatter over the desiccated coconut and push two pretzel halves into each side of the cupcake for arms. Pipe black icing buttons onto the buttercream and wrap a red scarf around each marshmallow.