



**WHITEHORSE MANOR INFANT SCHOOL  
RED, BLUE & ORANGE CLASS NEWSLETTER**

November 2014

Dear parent/carers,

Every half term we like to write to you to keep you informed about what your child will be learning about and to make you aware of any important upcoming events. This half term our topic is 'Families and Celebrations.' We will be thinking about our family trees and where our families come from. We will also look at days that are special for families, for example, Christmas and birthdays. Please continue to help and support your child by reading with them as regularly as you can and by asking them about what they are learning in school.

In our maths work we will be practising adding and taking away one or two from any number up to 10. Please support your child at home by practising these skills through activities such as adding 1 to and taking 1 from the fruit in a bowl or the tins in your cupboard. You can also help your child by counting up to 10 and counting back from 10 to zero and helping them to recognise numbers around them. We will be learning to use the vocabulary associated with capacity: *full, half full, empty, etc.* We will also be reinforcing our knowledge of 2D shapes and starting to name 3D shapes such as *cubes* and *cones*. Towards the end of the term we will be ordering objects by length and making symmetrical shapes and patterns. We will also be looking at time, in particular the days of the week and the months of the year. You could help your child by looking for shapes in your home and talking about days and dates.

In our literacy work we will be reading books about families and thinking about days that are special for our families and community. These will include stories about birthday parties and Christmas. We encourage children to write for a purpose, such as making invitations, shopping lists or greeting cards. It would be helpful if you support the work we do at school by reading print that you may see around you and involving your child in any writing that you do and talking about the letters and sounds you use in your writing. Towards the end of the term the children will be helping to set up a Post Office role play area in the classroom to post and send cards and parcels; please could you save any junk mail envelopes for the children to use.

In understanding the world we will be learning about special foods and ways of celebrating. The children will be involved in cooking activities and will think about how we can keep safe in the kitchen. Towards the end of the term we will be making calendars and Christmas cards. The children will listen to different types of music and think about how music and dance is used in celebrations that are important to their families.

In our PE sessions we will be using the parachute to play games and practise working together. It is important that your child has a PE kit in school. This should consist of a white t-shirt, black shorts and plimsolls, all should be labelled. Orange Class have PE on a Monday. Red Class have PE on a Thursday and Blue Class have PE on a Friday. Please can we remind you to make sure that **ALL** items of clothing are **named** and that jewellery is not worn to school (only studs are permitted). We have noticed that a few t-shirts and shorts are still without names and if they fall out of the bag they may not be put back correctly. Please check that your child has their clothes and return any that do not belong to them.

Our early morning activities take place every day between 8:45am and 9:00am. You are welcome to come into the classroom and stay with your child to read or to try some of the table top activities.

On the 12th December at 2pm Reception will be holding a Family Celebration where we will be singing some festive songs and sharing mince pies. We look forward to seeing you there!

Many thanks for your support

Kate Hilton  
(Orange Class)

Leanne Neale & Charlene Carrett  
(Red Class)

Liz Bannister  
(Blue Class)