

## ECCLESBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL ROCKETS AND STARS CLASS NEWSLETTER

November 2016

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 learning about different events and days that are special for families, for example celebrating a birthday, Bonfire Night, the Hindu festival of Diwali and towards the end of the term, Christmas!

For our first school trip, we will be visiting 'Build a Bear' in Croydon and bringing back to school a class bear that all children will have the opportunity to take home for the weekend throughout the year.

In maths, we will be practising adding and taking away one or two from any number up to 20. 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 20 and counting back from 20 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*. You could help your child by looking for shapes in your home.

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, Diwali and Christmas. We will be encouraging the children to write for a purpose, through making invitations, shopping lists and greeting cards. It would be helpful if you support the work we do at school by involving your child in any writing that you do and talking about the letters and sounds you use in your writing.

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 continuing our work on spatial awareness and playing games which require team work. 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. 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. During this time you are welcome to come into the classroom and stay with your child to read or to try some of the table top activities.

Please continue to help and support your child by reading with them as regularly as you can, and writing about it in their reading diary, and by asking them about what they are learning in school.

Please come and join us on the following occasions:

**Reception Christmas Family Afternoon (date and time TBC) – A chance to come and hear some Christmas songs, participate in some craft activities and share some Christmas food!**

Thank you for your continued support.

**Mary Edwards  
Rockets Class**

**Laura Wheadon  
Stars Class**