



## WHITEHORSE MANOR INFANT SCHOOL – BRIGSTOCK SITE WILLOW CLASS NEWSLETTER

January 2017

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back! Our theme this half term is 'Monsters.' In our literacy work, we will focus on developing an understanding of story structure (beginning, middle and end) through reading stories about monsters such as *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak, *The Gruffalo* and *The Gruffalo's Child* by Julia Donaldson. We will be reading common words, writing for different purposes (e.g. lists, letters, instructions and stories), using descriptive language and retelling stories and making up our own versions of stories that we've read together.

In mathematics, the children will be focusing on developing mental maths skills, so that they can work out things quickly using a variety of strategies. We will be developing the use of language in measurement including weight (light/heavy/heavier/lighter/heaviest/lightest) and length (short/long/shorter/longer/shortest/longest) as well as developing strategies for adding and subtracting. Help your child at home by playing games which involve using dice, number cards or number lines. Look for opportunities, such as laying the table for dinner to encourage your child to count out objects and compare groups of objects when they are helping you around the home.

In expressive arts and design, the children will take part in music activities that will help them to practise and make up their own rhythms, using instruments to play them. In our PE lessons we will continue to develop travelling and balancing skills, as well as carry on our work on spatial awareness. We will be thinking about how exercise helps us to be healthy and talking about other ways in which we can look after our bodies (brushing our teeth and washing our hands etc.) The children will also learn how to use a variety of materials to make pictures and models.

### Golden Books

Your child will soon, if not already, be bringing home a simple, repetitive book to read to you. This is in addition to the book they already choose for themselves to take home. This book will have a gold sticker on it. They will keep the book for a week.

To help your child when reading we would recommend that you:

- read the book to your child first to help them get to know the text, talking about the characters, any difficult words or unusual vocabulary;
- begin to let your child 'take over' reading, encouraging them to point to the words as they read;
- help your child to find repeated words in the text (shorter words such as the, go, to);
- read it a number of times throughout the week to help build up your child's confidence as a reader;
- don't worry if you feel they have just memorised the text or used picture clues to help them – they need to feel that they are the reader. This is an important stage of reading development;
- help them out by telling them words that they find difficult to read, but also encourage them to have a go themselves;
- talk about the storyline and the different characters;
- remember not to let your child sound out 'tricky' words (see your child's class teacher for another copy of this hand out) as these are read as whole words and cannot be decoded (sounded out).
- keep on reading a range of genres to your child.

**Please look after these books and put them back in your child's book bag after each read.**



# THE PEGASUS ACADEMY TRUST

Executive Headteachers:  
Mr M J Roberts & Ms L D Sampson  
Head of School: Mrs S Russell



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**PLEASE CONTINUE TO CHECK THAT YOUR CHILD HAS THEIR NAME IN EVERY ITEM OF CLOTHING IN THEIR PE BAG.**



## WOW Moments

Our WOW boards are looking a little sparse. Please help fill them by keeping your WOW moments comments coming in. We love to read them and celebrate your child's achievement. These 'Wow Moments' can tell us about anything of interest that you would like to share with us. For example, your child's favourite bedtime story, the first time they tie their shoelaces, dress and undress themselves independently, how they built a tall Lego tower, and many more besides! It would be fantastic if every child could have a mention on our WOW boards. If you prefer, please speak to your child's class teacher who will happily record the WOW moment on your behalf.

Thank you for your continued support,

**Tanya Headley**  
**Willow Class**



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## WOW Moments Template

