



### WEEKLY PARENT NEWSLETTER – Reception Cubs 20 January 2014

#### Dates for your diary

- **Monday 20 January** - join us for our first Early Years Cubs **Parent Coffee Morning** in the secondary school dining hall at 8.45-9.30.
- **Saturday 25 January** - Our postponed Christmas fair with a Chinese New Year twist!
- **Wednesday 29 January** - **Children please wear red or a Chinese outfit today.**
- **Thursday 30** Chinese New Year holiday begins.

#### Learning Theme of the week

The children were really excited to discover that a dragon had visited school last week and left them a letter to read. They have really used their imaginations well and are busy making dragon models and writing letters in reply to the dragon!



This week the majority of our learning will be about using music and movement to create a dragon dance that we can use during Chinese New Year week. The children will be given the opportunity to listen to a variety of musical pieces and watch some dragon video clips. They will be able to imagine how a dragon might move and go on to create their own dragon dance and dragon path paintings. They will be encouraged to use and extend their vocabulary to include expressive words such as swoop, dive and soar. These words will prove useful as we plan to write some dragon poetry! We are also going to be challenging the children in the area of number as the dragon is keen to count its eggs that it keeps hidden in the nest by its cave - our new role play area. Here the children will also be able to check their answers by using a number line, number balances and calculators.

Some of the main learning intentions taught and explored will be:

#### Communication, Language and Literacy

- Children use their phonic knowledge to write words in ways which match their spoken sounds. They also write some irregular common words. They write simple sentences which can be read by themselves and others. Some words are spelt correctly and others are phonetically plausible.
- Children speak using past and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future.

#### Mathematics



- Children will continue practising their counting; reading and writing numbers.
- Children will add two digit numbers using the + and = signs.
- Children will use quantities and objects as well as counting on to find answers to addition problems

### **Expressive arts and design**

- Children initiate new combinations of movement and gestures in order to express feelings, ideas and experiences.

### **Physical development**

- Children show good control and coordination in large and small movements

### **Phonics**

Puffer fish-will review *ear* and *air* and introduce *ure* and *er*.

Sharks-will learn *ow*, *oi* and *ear*

Octopus-will learn *sh*, *ch*, *th*, *ng*

Jelly Fish-will learn *o*, *c*, *e* and *u*

All groups will continue to review and learn tricky words.

### **Mandarin**

This week the children will talk about the story of Chinese zodiac and introduce Chinese New Year. What happens in Chinese New Year and what do Chinese people do. We will make dumpling on next Wednesday.

**Vocabulary:** happy new year *xin nian hao* (新年好) *gongxi* (恭喜)  
Red bag *hongbao* (红包) dumpling *jiaozi* (饺子)

### **Dutch**

Het is een Europese winter in de Nederlandse klas. Het vriest en sneeuwt! We hebben de woorden rondom het thema winter geleerd via een liedje 'Sporen in de sneeuw', een dansje 'Ik wil sneeuw', boek 'Kikker in de kou' en een filmpje van Zandkasteel aan zee. Samen hebben we sneeuwballen gemaakt en een heus sneeuwballengevecht gehouden. Met het spel 'Sneeuwvlok blazen' hebben de jongens veel doelpunten gescoord. Verder hebben we winterkleding en zomerkleding gesorteerd.

### **Can you help?**

Thank you for the junk modeling materials we have been receiving, keep it coming! We are always grateful for extras! New mums as well as 'old' please let us know if and when you'd like to help out in the classroom.

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

Many thanks again.

**The Reception Team.**