

## Early Years Foundation Stage Newsletter 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### Nursery

We have had another fun filled week this week in Donaldson class. We read the story *Kipper's Birthday* by Mick Inkpen and discussed all the things we do to celebrate birthdays. We then discovered that it is Elmer's (the beloved patchwork elephant) birthday this week and decided that we would each make Elmer a birthday card and had fun creating presents for him out of junk modelling materials. In maths we have continued to focus on counting and recognising numbers to at least 5 and enjoyed acting out the nursery rhyme 'Five Currant Buns'. In phonics the children really enjoyed Playing Adjust the volume in pairs – taking turns to copy each other making loud sounds and quiet sounds with identical musical instruments. They also enjoyed talking to us about the different events they celebrate and how they celebrate them. We introduced the children to Advent and have started counting down the sleeps on our class Advent Calendar until Christmas Day. Towards the end of the week the children enjoyed playing in the rain and jumping in puddles! Other activities the children have particularly enjoyed this week include making cakes out of playdough; exploring Numicon, multi-coloured chickpeas and Unifix cubes; using tweezers to add the correct number of sprinkles to the numbered cakes; making items for a party out of various construction materials and preparing for birthday parties in the home corner.



### Reception

The children in Reception have been working really hard in phonics this week, continuing to work on our blending skills and sound recognition. We have learnt the new sounds v and j, along with the tricky word 'into'. Keep reading every night at home and recording it in your school diaries as this really going to help you become confident and fluent readers. Re-reading the book a few times, will allow your child to become more fluent and less reliant on their sound talk. We are practising writing our names and encourage you to support your child in writing their own name in any Christmas cards that they might send. This is a great purpose for writing! In maths it has been all about finding one more and one less than a given number. We have been using five frames, counting buses and different representations to help us. We also really enjoy singing Five Cheeky Monkeys and Five Little Men to help show one less. Emma Jane's Aeroplane has been our story of the week. It is a great rhyming story about a collection of animals who are picked up around the world and who work together when a storm strikes. The children have loved looking at world maps, searching for where they live as well as other countries. We have discussed how we live in Tunbridge Wells and how that is in the country England. We have been busy painting our own planet earths, creating aeroplanes from junk and construction materials. We have also begun to decorate the classroom for Christmas. We are very excited for Christmas dinner next week and Christmas Jumper Day!

