

## Early Years Foundation Stage Newsletter 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### Nursery

We've had a fun-filled week this week in Donaldson class. We started to learn about the Christmas story and read *The Nativity*, *The Story of Baby Jesus* by May Eliot and Richard Johnson. We then received a surprise visit from Santa's chief elf Buddy, who delivered a parcel containing elf hats, decorations, a Christmas tree and a letter outlining lots of challenges for the children to complete. The children had great fun dressing the Christmas tree, completing a survey to find out the most coveted toys this Christmas, creating their own snowman names, writing letters to Santa and counting down the sleeps to Christmas.

In Maths, we revisited pattern and created our own repeating pattern paper chains which we used to decorate the classroom.

In Phonics, we have focused on listening and remembering sounds. The children enjoyed exploring the sounds different musical instruments make and playing Matching Sound Makers - matching the sound to the instrument. The week ended with our Christmas performance which we look forward to sharing with you on Tapestry next week. Other activities the children have particularly enjoyed this week include walking the Christmas tree (practicing coordination and balance); using tweezers to decorate the Christmas trees; counting how many snowballs they managed to land in the basket; exploring white glitter playdough and loose parts; exploring the Christmas gloop and mark-making in shaving foam. Our class Christmas party is on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> – the children are invited to wear party clothes but please ensure they are suitable for being outside.



### Reception

It has been a busy week in Reception, we have loved decorating the classroom for Christmas. The paper chains were a big hit and look fabulous and we also worked on our cutting skills as we learnt to make snowflakes for the windows. Christmas Dinner on Wednesday was lots of fun, so much that the children asked if it was Christmas dinner again on Thursday! There was music, crackers and even some dancing! Along with our Christmas activities we have been reading the story *Whatever Next*. The story is about a bear who sets off to the moon in a cardboard box rocket and meets a friend along the way. We have been discussing what we would take to space with us, describing aliens along with building our own rockets. The children have been enjoying the writing activities and are beginning to use their phonics to help them when they write. We have also been working hard on our name writing and letter formation. Keep it up Jeffers Class! In Phonics we have learnt the new sounds w and x and have been revisiting our phase two tricky words. In Maths this week it has been all about 2-dimensional shapes, we have been naming them and describing their properties. We have also focused on the days of the week and the date each day. We have discussed what happens in the day time and what happens at night and have ordered our daily routine. We have one final week before the Christmas holidays and it looks to be a busy one. Please remember your party clothes on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> (please ensure they are suitable for being outside) ready for our class party!

