



## THE PHOENIX SCHOOL

### What is happening in Reception this Half Term? Half term beginning 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Welcome back! We hope you all had a restful holiday.

#### Communication, Language and Literacy

This term the children will continue to build upon the strong foundations they put in place for themselves last term, cementing their knowledge of the Jolly Phonics sounds and beginning to use these skills in their reading and writing. We will begin to teach some of the alternative graphemes for phonemes with which they are already familiar (e.g. 'ai' may also be written 'ay' or 'a-e'). The children will continue to learn more tricky words. Each week we will be focusing on an exciting book (fiction, non-fiction and poetry) which will inspire the children's imagination, provide opportunities for them to develop their ability to write for a variety of purposes and deepen their understanding of print conventions. They will be developing their own writing skills through becoming the authors of their own books (both fact and fiction) and writing lists, letters, labels, maps and games. They will begin to understand and talk about basic punctuation and 'finger spaces' and continue to develop correct and careful letter formation through handwriting sessions.

As an essential part of their continuing development towards becoming fluent, confident readers the children will begin to read, twice weekly, on a one-to-one basis with an adult. They will also be reading together in small groups during our 'big book' sessions. We hope that you will be as excited and thrilled as we are by the huge leaps your child will be making this term – the children are delighted by the discovery that they can read 'real' books and write things that grown-ups can really read!

#### Please Note:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Reading book sent home</b></li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Return Monday's reading book.</b></li><li>• <b>Receive a new reading book</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Return dictation book.</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Return Wednesday's reading book.</b></li><li>• <b>Dictation book sent home</b></li></ul>

#### Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

This half term the emphasis will be on collecting and sorting data. The children will be sorting collections of objects, such as buttons and lids, by shape, size, colour and other significant features. Defining categories for sorting is a key skill in both PSRN and KUW. The children will practise collecting and recording data by asking each other survey questions such as "Would you rather eat ice cream in a cone or a cup?" and "Would you rather be a whale or an eagle?" They will also be finding out about the different birth dates in their class and the ages of people in their families. While we are working with data, the children will continue to develop their number skills. For example, counting quantities will help to develop their understanding of mathematical concepts such as 'more and less'. During this term the



children's knowledge of and ability to use numerals will also develop further. At home you could encourage your child to help you sort laundry, items for recycling, groceries, toys and spare change. Please do support your child to try different ways of sorting and explain how your own sorting systems work and why you use them.

### **Knowledge and Understanding of the World**

The topic this half term is 'Toys', much to the children's delight! Throughout the topic we will discuss, explore and play with toys from the past and present day. We will also play a variety of games, both old and new, and explore a number of toys from the 1950's. 'Toy Day' will be an opportunity for children to share their favourite toys and write 'toy profiles'. We will investigate forces (pushes and pulls, magnetic attraction and wind) through playing with moving toys. Throughout the topic we will junk model using 2D and 3D shapes to attempt to make our own toys and a variety of puppets. The children will also role-play in the Toy Shop where they will have the opportunity to be a customer or shop owner, using real money to buy and sell toys!

### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

We will be continuing to help the children become independent learners, encouraging them to sustain their involvement in activities and solve problems if and when they arise. The children will continue to work as part of the class or group, for example when playing with toys and in games, which will help them to build upon their skills with sharing and taking turns. During circle time activities, the children will be developing their ability to express their needs, views and feelings through discussions and group activities and will think about ways to be sensitive towards others. We are always interested to learn about the children's different interests and cultures from outside of school and invite the children to share significant events or experiences. The children will discuss the Unicef "Day for Change" and consider how some countries are affected by famine.

### **Important Dates:**

- Magic Book Company will be visiting school to perform a puppet show on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012.
- Reception reports will be sent home on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

### **Reminders:**

- Please continue to send lunch in a clearly labelled disposable bag every Friday.
- Uniform for the sports fields on a Friday should be a sweatshirt, tracksuit bottoms, trainers and a warm coat. A hat, scarf and gloves are also important during the colder weather.

### **Request:**

Throughout this term we would be grateful if you could send in lots of bottle tops, lids and buttons for us to sort and explore.

It promises to be an extremely busy and fun half term!

Many thanks

*Rebecca Robinson*

*A. Watt*

