





Dear parents/carers,




This week have been enjoying many activities that this festive period brings. Thank you to all those who came along and enjoyed the Reception Christmas Concert. The children did so well!





This week we have been:

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- reading 'Dear Santa' by Rod Campbell and sharing what we would like for Christmas.
 - learning Phase 2 phonics with the sounds x, ch, sh, th, qu.
 - reconsolidating what we have learnt in Maths this year and practising our number formations.
 - discovering what happens during Hanukkah and exploring the similarities and differences to Christmas.
 - singing to you the songs we have been learning this half term for Music in our Christmas Carol Performance.
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Next term, our topic will be 'Hot and Cold' with an initial focus on the Polar Regions. We will start this by introducing the book 'The Blue Penguin'. This is a beautifully illustrated book which explores being a good friend.



In phonics, during the carpet session, all children in reception will be split into two groups: a group with Mr Matthews will consolidate the sounds already taught and a group with Annie will learn further sounds (step 2). Once the carpet session has finished, they will return to their home classrooms and complete group work with their regular class adults. You will know which group your child is in on the first day back: if they bring home a 's' sheet, they are in the consolidation group; if they have an 'ou' sheet, they are in the step 2 group. We are sending home sound cards and tricky words today for practice at home and ask that you practice these over the holidays. To help, a Jolly Phonics guide for parents can be found [here](#). Should you wish to purchase any optional Jolly Phonics resources to further help support learning at home, they can be found [here](#).



In maths, children will be learning about numbers up to 10, developing a deep understanding of each number and its composition. You can help at home by providing opportunities for children to count real life objects when helping around the house. You can also practise subitising (recognise numbers without counting) to 5.



We hope you have a lovely break and wish you a wonderful Christmastime with your family,
Ben (Mr Matthews), Annie, Loren, Ginny and Yasmin

