

Dear Parents and Carers,

3rd December 2021

Many thanks for the feedback forms you have returned to school, they are very much appreciated.

Our book focus this week was "The Little Red Hen". This is a traditional tale and many different retellings of the story can be found on YouTube. If you are unfamiliar with the story, it tells the tale of a hen asking her friends on the farm to help her. All through the story they say no until the end when they want to help to "eat the bread" the hen has made!

Throughout the story we try to ask as many open-ended questions (which have more than one possible answer) as well as closed questions (which have only one answer). The open-ended questions encourage the children to think more deeply, e.g. Would they have shared the bread at the end of the story, (closed question) Why would they share the bread or why wouldn't they share the bread, (open-ended question). Very young children find this difficult but our older children are excellent at modelling!

The children are doing well learning our Christmas songs. A new one we have learnt is, "We wish you a merry Christmas". The one we are learning is found on "Super Simple Songs" and includes actions, clapping, jumping and stamping as well as whispering and shouting!

I have spoken to our IT Technician about recording the songs to send to you to watch. They will be too long to send via email and the school website unfortunately. He has advised there is a way of adding the songs to YouTube which you will then be able to access. If you prefer your child not to be included in the recording please let a member of staff know. We are aiming to record on Friday 10th December when the children will be wearing their Christmas jumpers. (If your child is not in on this day we will make another recording on Monday 13th December.)

The children may have mentioned "Smartie the Penguin" to you. This was an online story we read promoting online safety. The message given was when playing online games on an iPad, tablet or on Mummy's or Daddy's phone, a grownup should be sitting with them and if anything popped up that shouldn't be there they do not click but tell someone. The rhyme states, "Before you click, click, click, you need to think, think, think and tell someone". You can view the story yourself by tying "Smartie the Penguin" into a search engine.

The children were very excited to see the snow and ice this week. We chatted about how cold it was now autumn has turned to winter and Christmas as getting closer. We noticed how so many more children now have scarves, gloves and hats compared to a few weeks ago and also how the trees in the front playground have now lost all of their leaves. Noticing seasonal changes and it's effects relates to "Understanding the World" in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum and gets the children ready for the "Science" Curriculum as they get older.

Many thanks for your continued support.