

Dear Parents and Carers,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Zebra Class!

It has been a very busy but fantastic first term in Zebra Class and we are all very proud of them. The children really are grown up Zebras now and are enjoying all aspects of school life; especially being class buddies with the new Giraffes. We have learnt a lot from our last topic 'People Who Help Us' and everyone loved our trip to The Florence Nightingale museum where we actually met Florence herself! The children have produced some creative show and tell items as part of their home learning and we have enjoyed sharing them with each other and displaying them in the classroom for all to see.

For the past few weeks Christmas has been the focus in Zebra Class; we are all so excited! From the pictures above you can see some of the Christmas activities we have been getting up to. I'm sure you will agree that all the children were fantastic in our nativity 'A Present for the Baby' and we hope you enjoyed the show.

Our topic for next term will be **Transport**.

We loved Making
Christmas
decorations!



The nativity dress
rehearsal was
great.



We enjoyed making
Christmas cards in
Zebras!



ENGLISH: The children will be exploring information texts linked to our topic before creating their own information booklets about a particular mode of transport, e.g. boats or trains. They will be looking at the features of reports and ensuring these are clear in their own texts. The children will also be writing a recount about their trip to the museum, ensuring they sequence events in chronological order in their writing. They will also be learning about time connectives and how to use these effectively in their writing.

MATHS: The children will be completing lots of practical activities and having lots of fun in maths. The areas we will be covering are numbers and the number system, counting, adding and subtraction, shapes, money, time and measurement. The children will be doing different problem solving activities based around addition and subtraction to put the skills they are learning into context.

SCIENCE: Our first topic is 'Sorting and Using Materials'. We will be learning to describe and sort materials and suggest reasons why a material may or may not be suitable for a particular purpose. Our second topic is 'Sound and Hearing'. We will be learning to identify sounds in the school environment and investigate how sounds get fainter as they travel away from the source.

TOPIC: As stated above our topic will be Transport. We will be learning about various methods of transport and how these machines have changed over time. To gain a greater insight we will be visiting the Transport Museum in Covent Garden where we will be taking part in an exciting workshop. We will be deciding which modes of transport are used for different journeys and thus gaining a better insight to the geography of this country and indeed the world.

ART: In Art we will be learning about drawing. Children can experiment with mark making using a variety of materials including pastels, crayons, pencils, pens etc. We will then focus on how to draw different textures using different drawing techniques.

Music: Holly, our new experienced music teacher, will be teaching music on a weekly basis.

PSHCE: Linking with the rest of the school we will be exploring the area of 'going for goals' and setting realistic and achievable targets and resolutions for ourselves. We will continue to check in with each other to see the progress we have made on our own targets as well as seeing what we can do to help each other achieve theirs.

RE: We will be learning about the different buildings associated with each religion and investigating what makes a place special. The children will be finding out about what happens in a church as well as what makes a Mosque and synagogue special. We will be visiting Barn Church to enhance our knowledge of what a church looks like inside and out.

RSE: We are learning about families in RSE this term. We learn that there are different types of families and all families have special roles in children's lives.

PE: Our P.E days will be **Tuesday** and **Wednesday**. On Mondays the children bring their PE kit in a bag for the week and we will get changed all together on our P.E days. Motive8 will run one session with the children and I will one run session. This term we will be focussing on Gymnastic. The children can then take their PE kits home again on Fridays.

ICT: The children will be developing their mouse and keyboard skills. We are going to be doing this through different games which will involve selecting items and moving them around the screen. We will also be using different programmes, e.g. typing up facts on Microsoft Word and using the internet to help us with our research.

FRENCH: During the Spring term we will be exploring the French version of the children's book Dear Zoo and the music from Le Carnaval des animaux. We will focus on animal names, colours and build phrases to describe animals. Zebras will also look at French customs for epiphany, pancake day and Easter.

Home Learning: The children will continue to get home learning in Zebra Class. Your child will receive a piece of maths home learning based on our week's lessons along with a list of spelling words to practise. Your child will also continue to be sent home three Oxford Reading Tree Books and three books from our class library. Please hear your child read and comment in their reading record book weekly. Your child's home learning will be sent home on a **Thursday** and needs to be returned the following **Tuesday**.

Green Leaves: Please keep sending in the green leaves with all the lovely things your child has been doing at home. We are always happy to add another leaf to our golden rules tree.

Show and Tell: Children may take in a show and tell on their book changing days. Therefore if your child is in Blue Group and therefore changes his/her books on a Monday then this will continue to be their Show and Tell day. Show and Tells should be related to something your child has been learning in or out of school please. We will endeavour to do them at the end of each day when possible.

Request: We would like to display some words about the topic in a variety of languages so, if anyone could translate our topic vocabulary, please come and see me.

Question Time: If you have any questions or queries then please come and talk to me. Catching me at the end of the day is easier than the morning. I will also be available to meet after school on a Tuesday; please let me know if you would like to make an appointment.

Dates for the diary:

5 th January	Inset Day
6 th January	Term starts
28 th January	Trip – The Barn Church
10 th February	Trip - The London Transport Museum
17 th – 21 st February	Half Term



Many thanks
Maria and Julie