

Odessa Infants School

Year 1 Newsletter

Autumn Term 2017

Welcome back to school after the half term break.

We have lots of exciting learning activities planned for the run-up to Christmas, as well as ideas to help you support your child's learning.

In **Literacy** we will be basing much of our work on three key books - '*Tree*', '*Winnie the Witch*' and '*Room on the Broom*'. We will be exploring the changing seasons, considering how they differ and how the changing weather and day length affects plants, trees and animals. We will be sequencing stories and writing speech bubbles and recounts, developing children's confidence in speaking and continuing to help children focus on the use of phonics to support reading and writing development.

There are many celebrations taking place this term including Guru Nanak's Birthday and Diwali, as well as Christmas. We will take the opportunity to learn about and enjoy the many ways different cultures celebrate.



In **Mathematics** we will be:

- Looking at different coins and working out how to pay for items of different value.
- Consolidating children's counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.
- Continuing to develop our adding and subtracting skills using a variety of strategies.
- Learning to tell the time to the hour and half hour.
- Developing children's understanding of fractions, starting with $\frac{1}{2}$ and progressing to $\frac{1}{4}$.



How you can support your child's learning:

Take your child shopping and give them the opportunity to handle money. Can they choose the right coins to pay for small value items?

Discuss times of the day with your child. What time do they usually wake up? When do they arrive at school, have lunch or get home? What time do they eat dinner or go to bed? If you have a clock with hands, show them these times.

Look at numbers on buses, doors etc and ask if it is an odd or even number. (Remember, numbers ending with 1,3,5,7,9 are odd and those ending in 0,2,4,6,8 are even!)

Ask your child to tell you about their day at school. Ask them questions like; "What have you been learning about the different seasons?"; "What did you most enjoy today?" or "What did you do really well today?"

To support geography and science learning, discuss different *habitats* with your child. Ask them what they know about the *polar* regions, the *rainforest* or the *desert* and share your own knowledge with them.

Support your child to learn the value of different coins. Place a selection of small coins on the table and ask them to look closely and say what each coin is worth. Can they add two or more coins together to find the total?

One of the best ways you can help your child to progress is to read with them regularly. Please ensure that they bring their book bag in on the correct days (if they do not have one please speak to the teacher!). Spend time together looking at the pictures and talking about the stories and characters. Remember, listening to a parent reading teaches children so much about the structure of stories and language – and is just as valuable as the children reading for themselves.