

Topaz Class Newsletter.

w/b 23rd January 2017



light



Literacy and Phonics

This week we have been learning some new digraphs (two letters, one sound) – **ai** as in rain, **ee** as in bee, **igh** as in right and **oa** as in goat. We have been working hard to spot these digraphs (igh is a trigraph – three letters one sound) in words to help us to blend and read. We haven't always found this that easy but it's a skill we are working really hard on! When sharing a book with your child at home please help them by spotting these sounds together. Our High Frequency 'Words of the Week' this week have been **they, she, for, his, that**. Next week's words will be **with, all, are, up, had**. Please ensure these are the words you focus on at home this week too.

Notes and Reminders

- Don't forget our reading meeting after school on Monday (30th January). This is a very informal meeting straight after school and the children are welcome to come too. Please come with any questions you may have regarding how we approach reading in school and how you read with your child at home.
- Sign up sheets are now available in the classroom for you to choose a session during our Book and Look week. These sessions are mornings this time round, from 8:40 to 9:45 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Other Dates for your Calendar...
 - **Monday 30th January** – Reading Meeting
 - **Wednesday 1st February** – Reception Hearing Check
 - **w/b 6th February** – Book and Look Week
 - **8th February** – Coffee Morning
 - **Friday 10th February** – School closes for February Half Term
 - **Monday 20th February** – School reopens for Spring 2



Maths

This week we have been learning about time in Maths. We thought about different parts of the day including morning, afternoon, evening and night time. We also learnt about the different things we do during each part of the day. We also used clocks to help us recognise and demonstrate o'clock times. We know that if the long hand points to the 12 it's an o'clock time and the short hand is the hour hand which tells us what o'clock it is. We played 'What's the time, Mr Wolf?' using clocks to show each time. We also thought about how long one minute is, using sand timers to demonstrate.



What else have we been learning this week?

This week we have been learning about China and Chinese New Year. We know that China is the third biggest country in the world and we used our globe and a map to discover where in the world it is. We also discovered how Chinese people celebrate and enjoyed our own Chinese New Year celebration with our Dragon Dance in the hall, which we're sure you've heard all about! We have made Chinese lanterns, had a go at Chinese writing and enjoyed exploring some noodles with chopsticks.



Homework Come up with some words that contain the digraphs we have learned so far... **sh, ch, th, ng, ai, ee, igh** and **oa** in words. Practise spotting the digraphs in these words when they are written down. Use a highlighter pen if you have one!