



The Manor Church of England VC Primary School

Aspire, Believe, Achieve

Shine like stars in the sky

Philippians 2:15



Headteacher: Mrs Amanda Flanagan

19th December 2019

Dear parents/carers,

Can you believe, as we end this Christmas term, that we are a third of the way through the year?! We have been really proud of the children this term for performing as perfect angels in our Nativity and for their excellent behaviour at the pantomime on Tuesday.

As some of you are probably aware, it is not school policy to set separate homework during holidays but having changed reading books in class today, we want to emphasise the importance of daily reading at home. We realise this is a busy time of year but just five minutes a day will make all the difference. After Christmas, we will be learning sounds with two letters (ch, th, sh etc) so they need to be secure with all the sounds they have been taught so far, in order to tackle the tricky sounds coming ahead. Remember, these can be found in the back of reading record books and in home learning books. Please don't forget to initial in Reading Record books when books have been read as we are unsure if a book needs to be changed.

Also after Christmas, we will be joining the rest of the school in the Reading Challenge whereby pupils who read at least five times a week, add a pebble to the class jar. We want Reception to be winning all the time!

Many thanks to those of you who are practising the word lists that come home in the reading record books. It is making a huge difference to your child's ability to blend the sounds together to make words. This is what they find particularly tricky and it needs patience, regular revisiting and modelling by you so that they can hear the sounds. As soon as your child is confident blending sounds in a list, we send home the next one. Please revisit old lists, even if your child is on word list 10, as this will make them confident decoders!

Some children are showing signs of really enjoying their writing and choose to do this as an independent activity. If this happens over the Christmas break, we would love to see photographs of them writing (you can do this via the 2buildaprofile email). Some children are still unable to write their name independently and at this point of the year, we would expect the majority of children to have secured this. Next term we will be moving on to writing simple sentences so it is crucial that they receive support from you over the Christmas break to keep their learning fresh in their minds. Please feel free to practise name writing and letter formation in the home learning books and we will celebrate this learning in class next term.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Sell and Mrs Kelly

EYFS teachers