November 2017

Dear Parents,

We’ve had a busy start to the term with preparation for Children in Need fundraising; sharing ideas for activities, discussing how to price fairly but still make a profit. The event also gave us the opportunity to practise our coin recognition and money handling skills. As we continue learning money skills, as mentioned before, please take every opportunity to allow children to handle coins, for example up to £1 and pay for small purchases, discussing which coins to select and if there would be change. We are also working on selecting the largest and least number of coins, for example 25p can be made with 2 coins as opposed to using 10p’s or lesser coins.

Also in maths we will be continuing formally consolidating the 2, 5 and 10 times tables and it would be very supportive to encourage children to not only practise these but to carry on regular counting on in 2, 5 and 10. Division will follow with children encouraged to see the links between and importance of learning their times tables so that they can rapidly recall these facts. Continued referencing the time on the hour and half past the hour will also support children’s awareness of time and their understanding when it’s formally taught.

As we continue our current transport topic with road safety awareness, we will also take the opportunity to learn about healthy eating and I would ask that you encourage children to make healthy choices for snack, as I’m sure you do generally. Wednesday is our nominated day to focus on healthy snacks so please remind children and raise their awareness of which soft drink options are preferable.

Visiting specialists on a Thursday afternoon will continue to be P.E and science whilst in the further P.E slot on Tuesday we will be learning Scottish Country dances in preparation for our Christmas party.

Please be reminded that the purpose of any maths, literacy (including spelling) or topic homework is an opportunity for you to share and support your child’s learning and understanding, as opposed to an assessment, therefore it should not in any way cause pressure or anxiety. Your support in dedicating time to hearing and sharing reading homework, sounding out and discussing tricky words in context as well as questioning and discussing childrens’ books generally is invaluable. With regard to spelling, please be reminded the key purpose of this homework is to support children’s recognition of the various sound and spelling patterns; for example, ‘ph’ is an ‘f’ sound. As opposed to simply rote learning, please extend your child’s understanding by sharing different words with the same sound and spelling pattern and contrasting them with words that sound the same but have a

different spelling pattern, e.g. fl**ou**r and fl**ow**er or encouraging children to spot their focus sound in their reading books or when out and about on signage.

Remember to catch me in the playground or keep in touch via diaries as necessary,

Kind Regards, Mrs Muir.