

Dear Parents

I hope your child enjoyed the activities sent home last week - Don't forget to link onto the 'Remote Learning' document above the Newsletters on our webpage for additional ideas to promote learning through play at home. Hopefully my stories and 'Snowman' poem and songs etc will be uploaded to our webpage by now showing the actions for these and we would love some videos of your child performing the snowman song and poems.

Thank you for all the lovely photos you have sent to me - it was great to see the children engaging at the various activities. I hope to get these uploaded to our page this week.

Our learning topic continues with 'Winter' this week -

'Exploring Ice Activity' to support any discussions you have had with your child about ice and exploring the change from liquids - solids - liquid cycle I have added a little plastic box for your child to fill with their chosen juice or water. Talk to your child about the liquid they are pouring and then put in the freezer - when frozen ask to child to talk about the change- how it is now solid, that they can't pour it now, discuss how it looks, feels etc Then encourage them to observe it as it melts - talk about the changing shape and size and how they can pour it again when it has completed melted.

Show and discuss a thermometer with your child.

**Keywords** to promote in discussions are - solid, liquid, ice, freeze, frozen, melts, temperature

**Learning About & Caring For Birds In Winter:** Hopefully your child has made the bird feeder from the resources provided last week and put this in their garden with the fat ball we included in their pack and have been able to observe the birds feeding. To build on this we have included resources for them to make a robin and a 'Robin' activity sheet with a new poem about a robin for them to learn . Please talk to your child about the characteristics of a robin and other birds that do not migrate, talk about birds that do migrate for winter, where they fly to and why - a few simple interesting facts can be sourced online with your child.

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**Cutting & Sticking Activities:** Please give your child lots of opportunities to use scissors and develop their cutting skills - we have included 2 snowflake making activities this week to help develop these skills - if you don't have suitable scissors please ask and we can provide these.

**Recognising Their Name:** During January in Pre-School we would be encouraging children to recognise their own name. Please print their name and the names of everyone they live with (siblings, pets, Mummy, Daddy and display these somewhere where your child will see them often - discuss with them what their name looks like and encourage them to identify their own name - the kitchen works well and an idea is that before each meal ask your child to show or bring you their name.

\*\* We have included some strips of card for names and blu tack to display the names.

**Writing & Drawing:** We really enjoyed the photos of children's drawings we received this week and hope to see some lovely drawings in your child's Busy Book when Pre-School reopens.

We see from photographs received this week that some children are writing their own name and this is fantastic - remember a capital letter only for the first letter and lower case for the others.

\*\* Please encourage your child to hold their pencil appropriately when writing - any habits formed now will be difficult to unlearn when they go to Primary School and will make the formation of some letters and handwriting difficult in Year 1.

\*\*Please do not panic if your child is not yet interested or ready to write their name at this stage - every child develops different skills at different stages.

Don't forget to keep checking online for any videos, photos or information we have uploaded

Please continue to send photos of your child engaging in the various activities and I can message a response to them about their work and have fun with the activities this week.

Take Care & Best Wishes Julie, Karen, Wendy, Joanne, Lorraine & Caitlin