Welcome back!

We hope you had a fabulous Christmas break and are refreshed and ready for the Spring term in the Reception year. Can I say a big thank you for all my lovely Christmas presents, they were greatly appreciated and enjoyed.

I am trying a little competition this half-term for our home reading. Each week I will tally up how many times each child has read at home and the child/children who have read the most will get to choose a small prize from my pot of special things. This will include chats about pre-reading books (books without words), so don’t forget to write in the reading records every time this is done in order to be in the running for a prize.

Our topic over the next six weeks is **food**, and how to live a healthy life. If the children have any books (fact or fiction) about food or looking after ourselves, then please feel free to bring them in to share them with the other children. We will also look at The Chinese New Year Festival, and the food that is enjoyed at this time.

Our homework this half term will mainly focus on these areas. We realise that reading and the letter formation sheets are a lot of homework already (we are so grateful for the time that you spend on these) and this is why I have kept our homework quite light.

**Week 1 and 2 (Ingredient due in Monday 13th January and picture due in week ending Friday 17th)**

We will be looking at the folk tale *Stone Soup,* and will be making our own soup in class. The story focuses on how everybody brings one ingredient so that they can all share the lovely soup together. We will be looking at the ingredients we need, and deciding which item we can each bring in. A little note will go in the reading records on Tuesday to politely request the ingredient. If this will prove tricky, then please feel free to let me know. Can you also encourage your child to create a picture of the ingredient that they have kindly donated? They can use any art supplies that they want to and if it could be around A4 size so that we can add it to our display wall. If you can discuss any letter sounds that they can hear in their chosen ingredient name (perhaps ask them to write it on the shopping list themselves) , then this will help a lot when we write labels for them in class. If you need any art supplies, then let us know, and we may have something that could help.

**Week 3 and 4 (Due in week ending 31st January)**

Over these two weeks, could you add photos or a video to Tapestry of your child doing some exercise? It could be anything that they want, maybe a walk, swimming, a club that they do out of school, a bike ride…anything that they like. The other Tapestry entry needs to be about something that they’re eating that they know is good for them. They could either tell us why it is good for them in the video, or you could add their quote to the box on Tapestry. We will share these and talk about them in class.

**Week 5 (Due in week ending 7th February)**

We will be looking at Chinese New Year celebrations, and in particular the food. We will turn the role play area into a Chinese restaurant and will need some menus for this. This can be a simple piece of folded A4 paper with some mouth-watering drawings/photos inside. If your child can label the pictures or write a caption underneath to explain what the food is, then this will be fabulous. This might need a little bit of research on the internet, or even looking at a menu that you might have at home already. If you have time, it would be brilliant to add something to Tapestry to show how they found out about their tasty Chinese food.

**Week 6 (I will confirm this a little closer to the time as it is an idea in its early stages)**

If we get the go ahead, then we will be planning a sponsored walk to raise money for a new class pet. I would be sending a sponsor form home and I would need your help to support your child with politely requesting sponsor money from lovely, generous relatives. I will keep you informed about this through Marvellous Me, and, if we can go ahead, then sponsor forms will go home during this week and will need to come back into school the week after half-term.

Thank you for all your hard work so far this year with reading and letter writing. It has been most appreciated, and has, and will continue, to really help with your child’s progression.

Kindest regards, Jackie Patnell and Julie Garrard