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Executive Principal: Mrs M.E. McCarthy MA; Ed.M

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Dear Reception Families,

Last week was Show Week and what super shining stars we have in Reception! A huge well done to all the children for doing so well. They sang their hearts out and gave it their all; we are so proud of them! Thank you to parents and carers who helped support by providing the fantastic costumes and helping children learn lines and practice the songs at home.

### **Thank you from the Reception staff**

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our families for your generous Christmas gifts and cards. We feel privileged to spend time with your little ones; they make us smile every day and we are grateful to have such supportive and kind parents/carers too. Thank you very much again from all of us.

### **Learning**

Our topic for this term is 'Fantastic Festivals'.

This week, we will look at the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year when we get the fewest daylight hours and the longest night. We will also continue to share Christmas traditions and talk about personal celebrations of Christmas and New Year. There will be lots of opportunities for Christmas arts and crafts throughout the week.

Please do share on Tapestry any photos of you and your family preparing for Christmas, if you celebrate, as the children love looking at each other's photos and it promotes some great discussion. Thank you to those who have already shared these, we love seeing what lovely experiences the children are having out of school and sharing them with their friends!

### **Communication, Language & Literacy:**

We will continue to practice forming the letters in our name.

We will write CVC words.

We will begin to write words and phrases.

### **Phonics**

Please continue to practice reading the tricky words. Next term we will build on these with further tricky words so being able to confidently recognise them will support reading confidence and fluency.

<https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Follow the link above to access lots of information for how you can support your child with their phonics learning.

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**Maths:**

We are looking at shapes this week, particularly at shapes with 4 sides. The children will learn to name and use vocabulary to describe them. We will continue to count daily, onwards and backwards to 10 then 20.

**Other Areas of Learning:**

- **UW (Understanding the World)** – we will discuss and explore Christmas traditions and the Winter Solstice.
- **PSED (Personal, social and emotional development)**- we will learn how to give and receive compliments.
- **EAD (Expressive arts and design)** – we will create lots of Christmas crafts such as wreaths, cards and paper chain decorations.
- **PD (Physical development)**- we will dig in our sand pit, take turns on our trikes and build Santa's sleigh out of large construction!

**Notices/reminders:**

- Next term our theme is 'People Who Help Us' and we need your help! We would love any willing volunteers who help in the community to come and talk to the children about their job; police, firefighter, nurse, doctor, bus/train drivers etc. Visitors sharing information from first hand experience really does enhance the children's learning and they love hearing all about it from someone in the know! Please contact your child's teacher or email the school office if you can help. Thank you.
- As this is the first time we are covering this theme in Reception we are low on resources. We would appreciate any costumes, accessories or books linked to the theme of People Who Help us, if you have any at home to spare. Thank you in advance.
- Please send in any library bus books and little wandle reading books that you have at home back to school. Thank you.

Kind Regards,  
Mrs Morley, Mrs Duxon and Mrs Lewis



## RECEPTION SNACKS

*If your child brings a snack for break time at Saxon Primary School, please choose from the approved list: **fresh fruit or vegetables, dried fruit, plain rice cakes, breadsticks, plain crackers, plain pitta/wrap (no filling), yoghurt tube or a handful of sugar-free cereal.** Please make sure fruits, such as grapes, are sliced in half **vertically** (or ideally quartered.)*

*Please avoid snacks such as fruit winders, crisps, pastries and other high sugar/salt snacks. If the children do bring something in that is not a healthy snack, we will offer a piece of school provided fruit and send the snack home with the children.*

*Many thanks for helping us keep snack time healthy!*

