



Hello and welcome back,

First I would like to say a heartfelt 'Thank you' from myself and Mrs Jojo for our wonderful gifts at the end of term. We can not express how much they meant to us.

What a great first week back in 2026 it has been! The first snow of the year but not enough to stop us getting to school to start the year off! The children have all settled back down into class routines as if they had never been away, and it has been fabulous to be back.

In our Literacy sessions we looked at the new phonic sound x. We learned the actions from the scheme and the set of rhymes to form the letter when writing.

x – for fox – wiggling your hand at the back of you like a fox tail.

(formation rhyme –down the arm and leg, repeat the other side)

Our book of the fortnight is called The Dragon Painter and lots of our learning will be based around the story. This week we made up simile sentences about the colours of the rainbow. I really am noticing how much the children's language skills are developing and the new vocabulary choices they are thinking of to stretch themselves. We also created New Year Resolutions to work on in class and again I am seeing how the children are now far more naturally thinking about what they can, can't and want to be able to do. Finally we carried out a new assessment of their phonic knowledge, so that in the next few weeks, when we have been through all 26 single sounds, I will know who needs revision of them and who can move on to the next digraph sounds (2 letters together that make a single sound)

In our maths we revised our number knowledge, seeing how far we could go at recognising numbers to 20, again so that learning can be tailored to individual needs. We also used our addition skills to try to solve problems that were linked to our topic, Tales and Turrets, to try to give it a more meaningful and authentic purpose.

As we are starting a new topic called, Tales and Turrets, we have started to look at castles, seeing where they were built, what they were made of, who lived in them etc. The children then had to sort statements about them and their new learning, under true or false headings.

In our creative session on Friday we looked at different styled castles and had a go at drawing our own. The children are really getting far more observant and drew some realistic castles.

This week I have started to send home children with a reading folder that contains a reading diary, a few books and letter, outlining how our reading will be structured and the timetable for the rest of the year. In class, we will listen to children read on a fortnightly basis, as it is important to make it meaningful and special for each child and not a rushed experience. Also, due to limited numbers of books, we will need to rotate books between the 2 groups. The Red Group have had their folders and will return them to school on Monday 19th, and the Blue Group will have theirs this Friday coming to be returned Monday

26th. The dates are in on the sheet in the Reading Diary. Once we are up and running it will hopefully work well.

Finally I want to say how wonderful it has been to be back and welcome everyone for our second term in Reception. Have a great weekend!

Miss Thomas & Mrs Jojo.

