



Powerstown Educate Together NEWSLETTER 15

Thursday 12th January 2012

Welcome Back

Welcome back after the Winter Break! We hope you all enjoyed the holidays and we are looking forward to working with you throughout 2012!



English

This week in English we have started our Word Lists. These words are based on the Jolly Phonics letter sounds and are used to help the children blend letters to form words. Word lists are stuck into the children's sound books, so please practice them! If you find your child is having difficulty with the words, it will be of some help to practice the first 5 letter sounds s, a, t, i, p & n!



English Stations

We teach English in 4 stations in the class. Each pupil works at each station for 40 minutes per week.

In station 1 the children practice cursive writing in their cursive writing book.

In station 2 Lorraine teaches the children cursive letter formation.

In station 3 Katie works on the week's Word List with the pupils

In station 4 Helena works on pre-reading and reading skills.

If at any time you would like to observe an English lesson, please let Helena know. English stations are taught Monday to Thursday from 8.50am - 9.30am.



Learn Together : Chinese New Year

The Chinese New Year is celebrated on Monday, January 23rd. 2012 is the Year of the Dragon.

In Chinese tradition, each year is dedicated to a specific animal. The Dragon, Horse, Monkey, Rat, Boar, Rabbit, Dog, Rooster, Ox, Tiger, Snake, and Ram are the twelve animals that are part of this tradition. In 2012, the Dragon is welcomed back after the 2011 year of the Rabbit. Each of these animals are thought to bestow their characteristics to the people born in their year.

What does the year of the Dragon imply?

The Year of the Dragon will be marked by excitement, unpredictability, exhilaration and intensity.

The Dragon is all about drama but if you take unnecessary risks, you may find yourself starring in your own personal tragedy.

People born under the Dragon are passionate, brave and self-assured. At their best they are pioneering spirits; at their worst, they epitomize the old adage

In the coming weeks we will be learning all about the Chinese New Year



Frásaí na Seachtaine

Frásaí na Seachtaine this week is

Cén dath atá ar...? (What colour is...)

Dath....

Maths

This week in maths we are revising sorting one, two and three property items. Children are developing the mathematical language by explaining what they have done e.g. I sorted by colour, I have a blue group, green group etc. I sorted by size, this is the biggest, smallest, medium group. I sorted by shape, these are the circles, squares, triangles.

We are also organising items from biggest to smallest and smallest to biggest.

Every day we work on number, order, sequencing and formation. We also play oral language maths games daily.

Language of the Month - POLISH

In January the language of the month will be Polish! If you can help the teachers learn a few phrases and/or poems please let us know. Thanks



January Theme: Transport

We are learning all about Transport for the next 2 weeks. We are learning about different modes of transport e.g. car, boat, airplane etc. We are learning about air, water and road transport. We are also looking at sentence structure when talking about transport e.g. I drive a car, I sail a boat, I take the bus, I ride a motorbike etc.

If you have any pictures and/or toys relating to transport that you would like to donate to the school, they would be gratefully received.

After School Clubs

Letters went home yesterday in relation to after school clubs. After school clubs commence on Monday January 23rd. After school clubs will run from 1.10pm - 2.10pm. Sandwiches, fruit and drinks will be provided for the children.

Each after school club will run for a period of 10 weeks.

Monday Club - Music - with Helena
Tuesday Club - Keep Fit - with Lorraine
Wednesday Club - Sports - with Katie
Thursday Club - Cookery - with Sharon

Parents are asked for €5 per club to help cover the costs of food, drinks and materials. (That is just 50c per day)

If you would like your child to participate in after school clubs please complete the form that was sent home yesterday and return it to school as soon as possible. Spare forms are available in the office if required.

Timetable changes

Thank you all for making the effort to be in school for 8.30am! It is making the timetable change much easier. Please remember that morning activity time lasts just 10 minutes. This time allows for the children to hang up their coats, bags and lunches. Formal school instruction begins at 8.40am every morning.

Late Arrival Book

Children who arrive to school after 8.40 am must sign the late book. If Helena is in the office the late book will be on the table. If Helena is in class, the book will be placed on a chair inside Katie's classroom door.