Reinwood Infant & Nursery School

My work in school 2026 - 2027

Dear Parents, our topic this half term is:

How do we Play?

The areas that we will be covering are:

- Bonfire Night, things that are exciting.
- Comparing old and new toys, how are they the same or different.
- Finding out how toys work and move.
- Finding out what our toys are made of, understanding different materials: wood, metal, fabric, plastic, glass.
- How we can play playground games and other games without toys.
- Making collaborative collages with different materials and hot and cold colours
- Learning about how Christians celebrate Christmas and about Christmas traditions around the world.

Here are some suggestions to explore this topic at home.

- Think about Bonfire Night. What noises, smells, sights can they think of. Can they draw a firework and write some words linked to the sound – pop, fizz, bang whizz. Can they hear the first, middle and end sound in the word.
- Have you or grandparents got any toys from when you were a child? Can you compare them to toys children play with now?
- Ask them to describe what toys feel/look like to develop their vocabulary, e.g. rough, smooth, shiny, soft etc
- Talk about what the toys are made from and why. Could a toy car be made from glass? Why not? Discuss why this is a good choice of material for the toys purpose.
- Can they think about how different toys work, does it need batteries, is it wind up, do you push or pull it?
- Talk about their favourite toy and encourage them to explain why it is their favourite. Can they draw a picture of it.
- Read lots of stories about toys, e.g. Old bear stories, Harry & the Robots, Kipper's Toy box.
- Watch the film Toy Story and talk about the different types of toys.
- Talk about Christmas and how we celebrate. Discuss how others might celebrate and how this is different. https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/christmas-traditions-54fe
- Write a letter to Father Christmas, design a Christmas card to send to family members.
- Make winter decorations for your house.

Helping your child at home - Literacy:

Our themes for writing this half term are: simple phonic words, descriptive words, simple sentences, lists.

- ✓ Please look at your child's sound folder each evening to practise recognising the sounds or words that are in it. Different ones will be added each week. Towards the end of the term we will be adding some blending homework to help your child use the sounds they know.
- ✓ Encourage your child to read or share a book with you each evening and discuss the story with them.
- ✓ Write lists for shopping, label pictures they have drawn, write a simple sentence about their picture , for example: It is a van. It is red.

Helping your child at home - Maths:

- ✓ Recognising numbers in the environment (house numbers, car registrations etc)
- ✓ Counting objects with one-to-one correspondence eg forks for dinner, shoes on the floor etc
- ✓ Recognising the shape of objects in the house and environment
- ✓ Using language to compare size
- ✓ Continue to practice number recognition and formation in maths challenge folder.

	Maths focus	Key books & topic focus	Key sounds & Focus words	
Week 1	**Circles and triangles** Identify and name circles and triangles Compare circles and triangles Shapes in the environment	Bonfire Night poems & sounds The Owl Babies Art – Bonfire collages PSHE – Bonfire/dark night safety	Introduce: j, v, w, x **he, she**	
Week 2	**Describe position** Language of position and direction	Kipper's Toy box (and any other Kipper books) Harry & the Robots Creative: Basket of Kipper's toys to re-act story Role-play How do our toys move?	Introduce: z/zz, qu **be we, me**	
Week 3	**Understanding number 5:** Find 4 and 5 Subitise 4 and 5 Represent 4 and 5	Toy story 2 DVD Our toys from home Being imaginative with toys Games and turn taking.	Word building games using the letters learnt to make words E.g. satpin – sat, pin, tap, it etc Letter formation	Introduce: **of, off**
Week 4	**Understanding number 5:** **1, 2, 3, 4, 5** 1 more 1 less	The Toys Party (ORT) Toys Information books & How do people play around the world? How do we play without toys?		Recap: and, to, the
Week 5	**Understanding number 5:** Composition of 4 and 5 Composition of 1 - 5	Dogger, Little Teddy Left Behind, Thread bear & I'll always love you Old but special toys Questionnaire for parents / grandparents		Recap: no, go, I
Week 6	**Shapes with 4 sides** Identify and name shapes with 4 sides Combine shapes with 4 sides Shapes in the environment	The Christmas story - How do Christians celebrate Christmas? How do we celebrate when a baby is born? Why do some people celebrate Christmas and others don't? Gifts and giving.		Recap: he, she, we, me, be
Week 7	**My day and night** Order and sequence events	Christmas stories and crafts.		Recap all sounds & words so far and check which they can read and write