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Home school diary sheet week ending 12th December 2014

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for our Christmas workshop! It was wonderful to see the children working alongside their parents or grandparents to take part in the different activities. Father Christmas was very impressed with how good everyone is and knows he has his work cut out between now and 'the day'. We all had a fantastic time and hope you all enjoyed it too! Now for some updates.....

Over the last couple of weeks we have introduced the children to different aspects of how Christmas is celebrated. One of the favourites has been the use of the Crib to explain the Nativity story. It has been fascinating to hear how their vocabulary has extended and developed and how readily they are able to draw upon their knowledge - for example using the names of Mary, Joseph and Jesus as well as using relevant vocabulary to describe the Christmas tree.

On Wednesday we will be having our 'party snack' for the children. This isn't a party in the usual sense so we always ask that children DON'T dress up - the session will proceed as normal and they will have access to all of the usual resources, including paint, mud, water and everything the outdoor area has to offer. This means that clothes will inevitably get dirty or marked so we would advise very strongly against any clothes that you wouldn't want this to happen to! The difference is that we will all be together for our snack and this will consist of healthy food, as home-made as possible. We provide it all so there's nothing for the children to bring except themselves!

Over the last week and during the workshop the children have been very keen to use the resources in the writing area and creative area to make Christmas cards. Part of this has involved writing their own messages in the cards. As you know, we always encourage the children to have a go on their own first and to think for themselves, rather than simply giving them a model to copy or dots to trace. The adults can then scribe underneath the children's writing, gently modelling the correct way whilst promoting the children's pride and confidence in their own work. The result is we have seen an increase in children's enthusiasm to write and also in their interest in letters and print.

'Hooked On Books' - Thank you to everyone who has remembered to bring their books in to be changed. Next week we will collect the books in for the holidays so that the Key Workers can take a look at the children's booklets. We'll give the books out again when we return in January.

There is no home activity this week - just a reminder that we finish for the holidays next Friday 19th December and return on Monday 5th January 2015.

We would like to wish you all a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year!