Cherry Class – Our Learning This Term 🍒🎄

We have an exciting term ahead in Cherry Class, full of wonderful stories, creative activities and festive celebrations! Here is a little glimpse of what the children will be learning and exploring.

Communication and Language: We will be helping the children develop their speaking and listening skills through stories, songs, group discussions, sharing circles and fun activities. We will be encouraging them to learn and use new vocabulary, talk about their interests, retell familiar stories and explain their ideas. The children will also practise listening carefully, following instructions and taking turns to share their thoughts with others.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSHE): This term, we will be exploring what makes each of us special! Through our Jigsaw PSHE sessions, the children will learn about their own talents, families, homes and friendships. We will talk about our feelings, celebrate our similarities and differences, and explore how others might feel in different situations. We will also encourage the children to build positive friendships, develop confidence and learn how to stand up for themselves in a kind and respectful way.

Physical Development and PE: The children will continue to develop their fine motor skills through activities such as threading, cutting, weaving and playing with playdough. These activities help strengthen little hands and fingers, preparing them for writing. We will continue to practise correct letter formation and encourage the children to develop their pencil control.

Outdoors, the children will have plenty of opportunities to climb, balance, explore obstacle courses and play in the sandpit. In PE, we will learning a range of skills with our PE coach.

English and Phonics: Our phonics learning will continue as we practise blending sounds to read simple words, spotting digraphs (two letters that make one sound), exploring rhyming words and discovering alliteration. Stories will be at the heart of our learning! The children will act out familiar tales, use pictures and story maps to retell them, and explore the beginning, middle and end of a story. We will encourage them to use exciting story language and bring their favourite characters to life through role play and imaginative play. Our focus texts and familiar favourites include: *The Jolly Postman*, the Christmas story, *Rama and Sita* and our much-loved Drawing Club stories:

The Hairy Toe, Chicken Licken, The Pink Panther, The Gruffalo's Child, The Gingerbread Man, The Grinch, Stick Man

Drawing Club will give the children opportunities to let their imaginations run wild, develop their storytelling skills and bring their ideas to life through drawing, writing and mark-making.

Maths: We will be building confidence with numbers up to 5, exploring how numbers can be made in different ways. The children will investigate the composition of 4 and 5, discovering how smaller numbers combine to make a larger number. We will also explore shapes with four sides and begin to develop our understanding of time through practical, hands-on activities.

Understanding the World

Past and Present: We will explore Bonfire Night and learn how to stay safe around fireworks. As Christmas approaches, the children will have opportunities to share their own family traditions and discover how Christmas celebrations have changed over time.

People, Culture and Communities: Our RE learning will focus on the question, *"What is Christmas?"* We will explore the meaning of Christmas and learn about the different ways people celebrate this special time of year.

The Natural World: We will observe the changing seasons and notice how the world around us changes as we move into winter. We will also explore world maps, discover where some of our favourite stories take place and begin to create and use simple maps of our own.

Expressive Arts and Design: Creativity will be everywhere this term! The children will create colourful firework pictures, design Christmas decorations and cards, and enjoy singing festive songs and learning poems. We will explore music and movement, responding to different sounds and rhythms through dance.

We will also be busy rehearsing for our very special Nativity performance, giving the children an opportunity to develop their confidence, express themselves and share the magic of the Christmas story with our school community.

We are looking forward to a wonderful term filled with stories, creativity, new discoveries and lots of festive fun in Cherry Class!