**Rabbit Class Newsletter September 2015**

This half term the Rabbits are learning about ***bears***. Through this topic we will look at lots of lovely bear -themed texts which we will be sharing and enjoying. We will focus on retelling stories, recognising high frequency words, talking about plot and characters, beginning to write words and sentences, as well as modelling reading skills and encouraging the children to join in. Writing our names and forming letter shapes will be a big focus this half term for Rabbits.

Every day we have a phonics session and each week we will introduce new phonemes and high frequency words. We will then work on recognising initial sounds, blending phonemes in order to read words, as well as segmenting phonemes (sounds) so that we can begin to spell simple words. Look out for our sounds and key words each week in your child’s phonic book. Please use the pages in the book to practise writing the key words.

Every day we will have a maths session where we will be working on counting, ordering and recognising numbers to 20. We will be really trying to get to grips with numbers 0-10 so that we know what comes before or after a given number (one more and ones less), as well as being able to combine two single digit numbers; thus introducing addition and subtraction. We will also dip into 2D shapes, weighing, measuring and estimating.

We will learn about the various types of bears that inhabit our world – what their habitats are like, where they live etc. Towards the end of the half term we will be looking at old and new bears, comparing how they are similar and different.

Our PE sessions will focus on a variety of skills, predominately developing the children’s gross motor skills, through gymnastics, movement, and games. It’s essential we develop the children’s fine motor control too and so we will explore and experiment with lots of malleable resources in our classroom - this will in turn help develop our writing skills. We will have weekly stories that further enhance the children’s PSHE, behaviour, empathy and language skills as well as very regular music sessions focussing on rhythm and beat. Hopefully you will hear lots of the lovely new songs that the children are learning at home! We are looking forward to a busy, fun-filled and really progressive half term with the children .

Miss Garland and Mrs Duncan.