

## Robins – Wrens Class Newsletter January 2017

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Welcome back to Term 3, we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and wish you all a Happy New Year for 2017. It is lovely to welcome the children back to school and continue with their learning journey. Thank you so much for our wonderful presents we received, we were utterly spoilt and thank you for your kind generosity.

### **This terms topic 'Once Upon a Story Book...'**

We will be focusing on Traditional Tales this term and specifically looking at the structure of a story through using actions, role play, drama and dance to retell the story in an active way. We will be learning to retell stories orally using a method advocated by Pie Corbett, using specific actions. It would support your child's learning if Traditional Tales could be read at home. The stories we will be looking at are Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Three Little Pigs, Jack and the Beanstalk, Three Billy Goats Gruff, The Enormous Turnip, The Little Red Hen and The Gingerbread Man. We will also be linking some cooking to the stories such as making porridge, bread and gingerbread men. As part of their learning in 'Understanding the World' (Science) we will be looking at natural and manmade materials and discussing their purposes and properties. Just before the half term holiday we will also be finding out about the festival of Chinese New Year, this year it is the Year of the Rooster. We will be performing Lion and Dragon dancing as well as trying out Chinese foods and having the experience of eating with chop sticks!

### **Reading/Writing/Phonics**

The children are continuing to work hard at their phonics, reading and writing. Thank you for all your invaluable support working with them at home learning sounds and keywords. Many children are now able to segment (separate) and blend words in phonics and this is being reflected in their writing. We are also focussing on handwriting with the correct formation of letters at all times. At the previous parents evening we gave out additional material to support your child at home with the development of their pencil control/letter formation. If you would like any further information on the best ways to guide your children's learning at home please ask. Guided Reading will continue in groups reading previously unseen texts.

### **Maths**

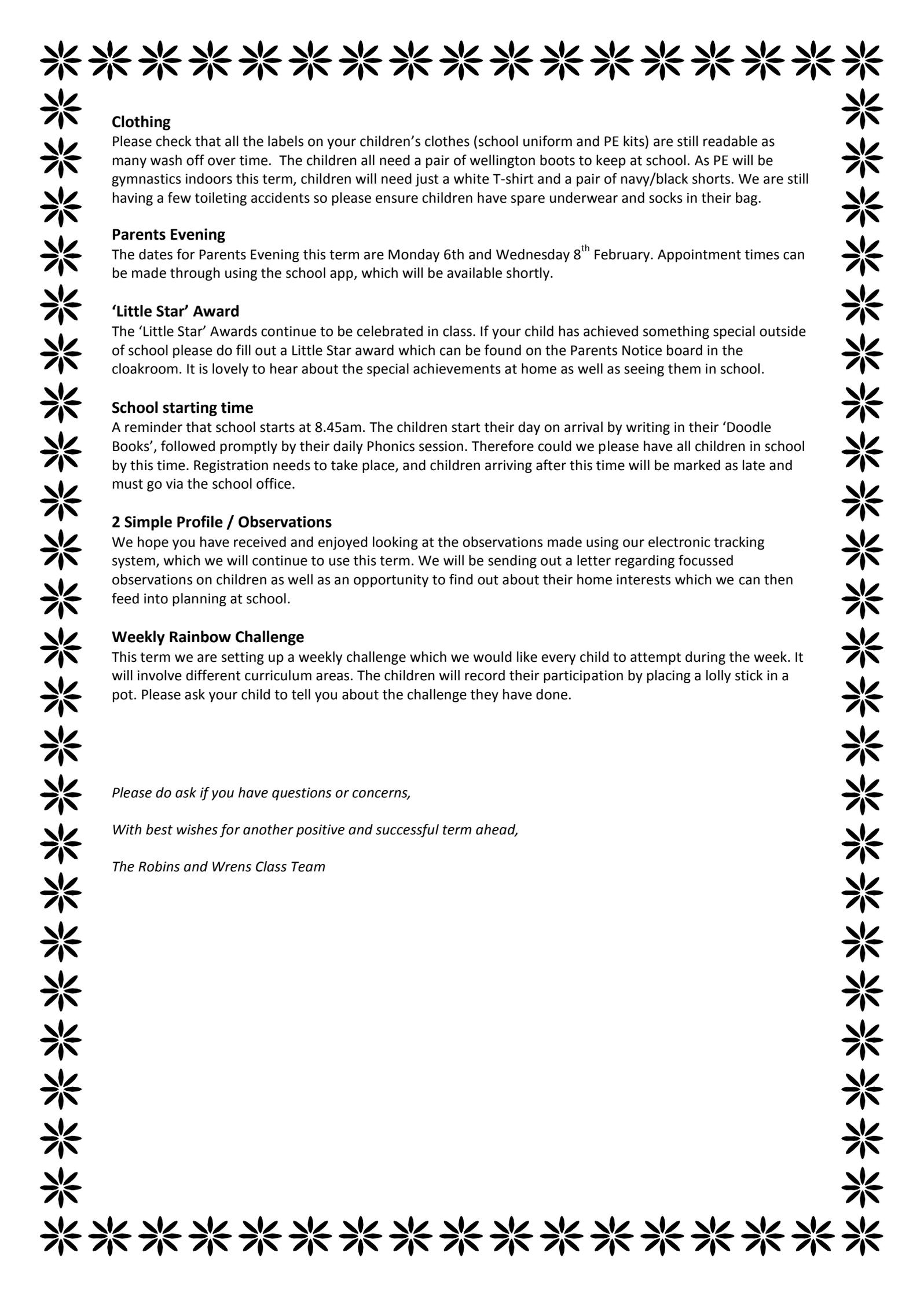
The children will take part in daily 'Quick Maths' sessions, involving both number and shape, space and measures. Number activities involve recognising numbers, counting for a variety of purposes, counting on, counting back, counting from a given number. We have begun counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and we will be working on the number operations of addition/subtraction using a wide variety of practical equipment. In addition to this number work we will be learning about patterns, symmetry, 2D and 3D shapes, measuring using balance scales, height and length. We will also be investigating time and using money in everyday role play experiences.

### **Show and Tell – 'My Special Photograph'**

This terms 'Show and Tell' timetable is up on the Parents Noticeboard in the cloakroom. We are changing it this term to bringing in a photograph of an experience that the children can talk about. Please check the timetable for your child's slot.

### **Help in the classroom**

As the children are now really settled in the classroom, we would like to invite parents to help. We would like to run a games 'carousel', working in small groups with Maths and problem solving games. If you are able to come in and help this term please talk to Miss O'Neill or Mrs Bartrum.



### **Clothing**

Please check that all the labels on your children's clothes (school uniform and PE kits) are still readable as many wash off over time. The children all need a pair of wellington boots to keep at school. As PE will be gymnastics indoors this term, children will need just a white T-shirt and a pair of navy/black shorts. We are still having a few toileting accidents so please ensure children have spare underwear and socks in their bag.

### **Parents Evening**

The dates for Parents Evening this term are Monday 6th and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February. Appointment times can be made through using the school app, which will be available shortly.

### **'Little Star' Award**

The 'Little Star' Awards continue to be celebrated in class. If your child has achieved something special outside of school please do fill out a Little Star award which can be found on the Parents Notice board in the cloakroom. It is lovely to hear about the special achievements at home as well as seeing them in school.

### **School starting time**

A reminder that school starts at 8.45am. The children start their day on arrival by writing in their 'Doodle Books', followed promptly by their daily Phonics session. Therefore could we please have all children in school by this time. Registration needs to take place, and children arriving after this time will be marked as late and must go via the school office.

### **2 Simple Profile / Observations**

We hope you have received and enjoyed looking at the observations made using our electronic tracking system, which we will continue to use this term. We will be sending out a letter regarding focussed observations on children as well as an opportunity to find out about their home interests which we can then feed into planning at school.

### **Weekly Rainbow Challenge**

This term we are setting up a weekly challenge which we would like every child to attempt during the week. It will involve different curriculum areas. The children will record their participation by placing a lolly stick in a pot. Please ask your child to tell you about the challenge they have done.

*Please do ask if you have questions or concerns,*

*With best wishes for another positive and successful term ahead,*

*The Robins and Wrens Class Team*