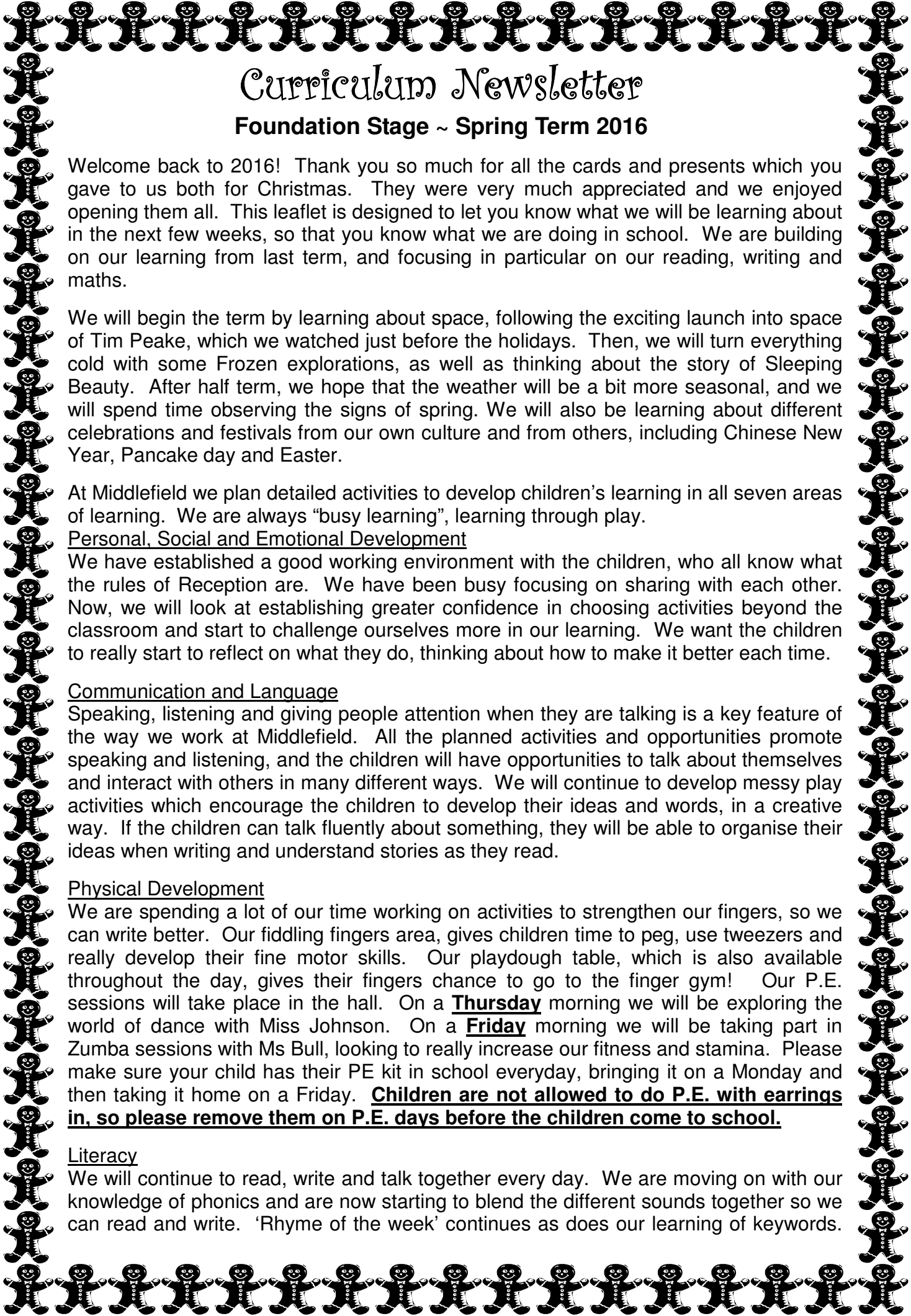




Curriculum Newsletter

Foundation Stage ~ Spring Term 2016

Welcome back to 2016! Thank you so much for all the cards and presents which you gave to us both for Christmas. They were very much appreciated and we enjoyed opening them all. This leaflet is designed to let you know what we will be learning about in the next few weeks, so that you know what we are doing in school. We are building on our learning from last term, and focusing in particular on our reading, writing and maths.

We will begin the term by learning about space, following the exciting launch into space of Tim Peake, which we watched just before the holidays. Then, we will turn everything cold with some Frozen explorations, as well as thinking about the story of Sleeping Beauty. After half term, we hope that the weather will be a bit more seasonal, and we will spend time observing the signs of spring. We will also be learning about different celebrations and festivals from our own culture and from others, including Chinese New Year, Pancake day and Easter.

At Middlefield we plan detailed activities to develop children's learning in all seven areas of learning. We are always "busy learning", learning through play.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We have established a good working environment with the children, who all know what the rules of Reception are. We have been busy focusing on sharing with each other. Now, we will look at establishing greater confidence in choosing activities beyond the classroom and start to challenge ourselves more in our learning. We want the children to really start to reflect on what they do, thinking about how to make it better each time.

Communication and Language

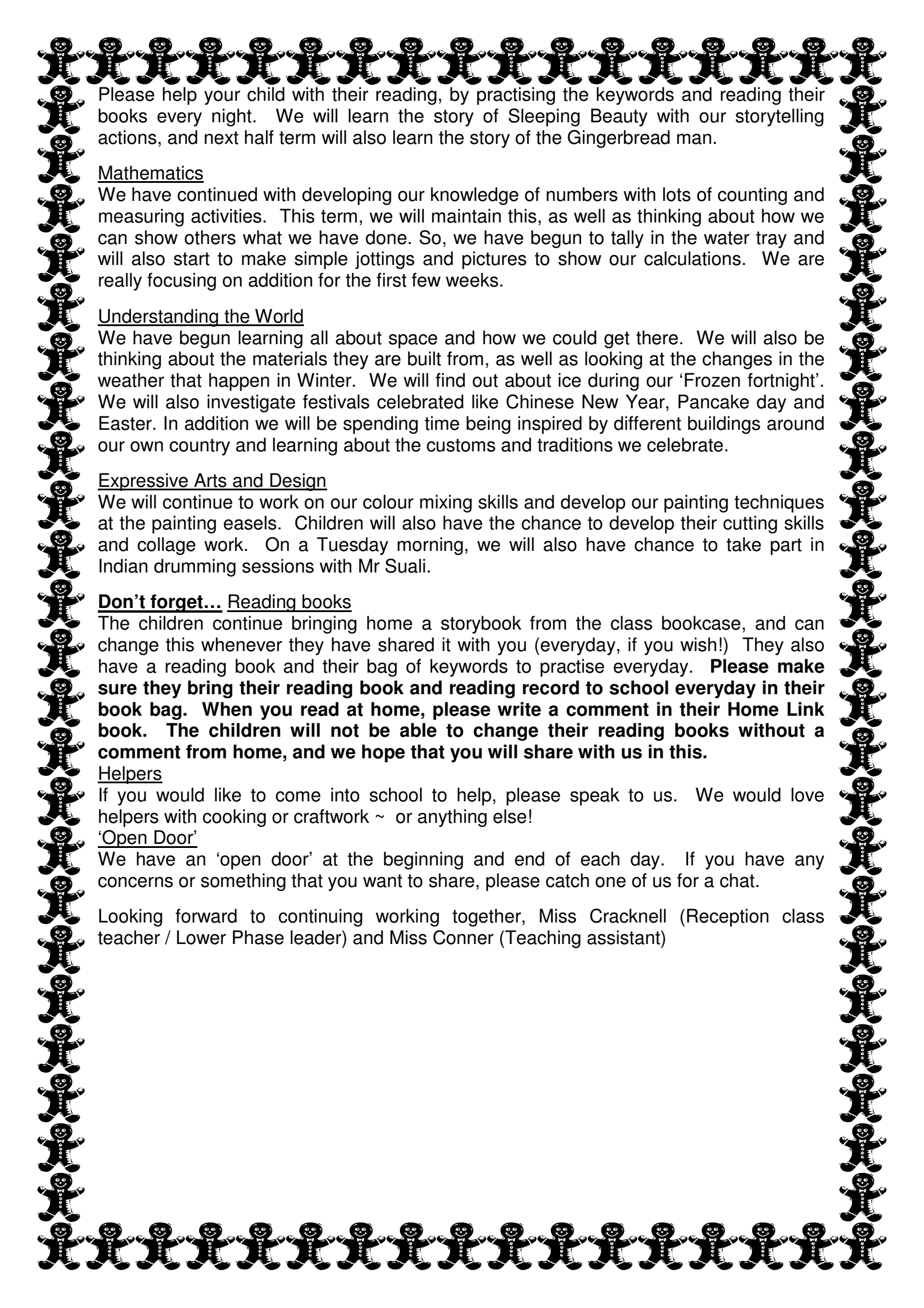
Speaking, listening and giving people attention when they are talking is a key feature of the way we work at Middlefield. All the planned activities and opportunities promote speaking and listening, and the children will have opportunities to talk about themselves and interact with others in many different ways. We will continue to develop messy play activities which encourage the children to develop their ideas and words, in a creative way. If the children can talk fluently about something, they will be able to organise their ideas when writing and understand stories as they read.

Physical Development

We are spending a lot of our time working on activities to strengthen our fingers, so we can write better. Our fiddling fingers area, gives children time to peg, use tweezers and really develop their fine motor skills. Our playdough table, which is also available throughout the day, gives their fingers chance to go to the finger gym! Our P.E. sessions will take place in the hall. On a **Thursday** morning we will be exploring the world of dance with Miss Johnson. On a **Friday** morning we will be taking part in Zumba sessions with Ms Bull, looking to really increase our fitness and stamina. Please make sure your child has their PE kit in school everyday, bringing it on a Monday and then taking it home on a Friday. **Children are not allowed to do P.E. with earrings in, so please remove them on P.E. days before the children come to school.**

Literacy

We will continue to read, write and talk together every day. We are moving on with our knowledge of phonics and are now starting to blend the different sounds together so we can read and write. 'Rhyme of the week' continues as does our learning of keywords.



Please help your child with their reading, by practising the keywords and reading their books every night. We will learn the story of Sleeping Beauty with our storytelling actions, and next half term will also learn the story of the Gingerbread man.

Mathematics

We have continued with developing our knowledge of numbers with lots of counting and measuring activities. This term, we will maintain this, as well as thinking about how we can show others what we have done. So, we have begun to tally in the water tray and will also start to make simple jottings and pictures to show our calculations. We are really focusing on addition for the first few weeks.

Understanding the World

We have begun learning all about space and how we could get there. We will also be thinking about the materials they are built from, as well as looking at the changes in the weather that happen in Winter. We will find out about ice during our 'Frozen fortnight'. We will also investigate festivals celebrated like Chinese New Year, Pancake day and Easter. In addition we will be spending time being inspired by different buildings around our own country and learning about the customs and traditions we celebrate.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will continue to work on our colour mixing skills and develop our painting techniques at the painting easels. Children will also have the chance to develop their cutting skills and collage work. On a Tuesday morning, we will also have chance to take part in Indian drumming sessions with Mr Suali.

Don't forget... Reading books

The children continue bringing home a storybook from the class bookcase, and can change this whenever they have shared it with you (everyday, if you wish!) They also have a reading book and their bag of keywords to practise everyday. **Please make sure they bring their reading book and reading record to school everyday in their book bag. When you read at home, please write a comment in their Home Link book. The children will not be able to change their reading books without a comment from home, and we hope that you will share with us in this.**

Helpers

If you would like to come into school to help, please speak to us. We would love helpers with cooking or craftwork ~ or anything else!

'Open Door'

We have an 'open door' at the beginning and end of each day. If you have any concerns or something that you want to share, please catch one of us for a chat.

Looking forward to continuing working together, Miss Cracknell (Reception class teacher / Lower Phase leader) and Miss Conner (Teaching assistant)