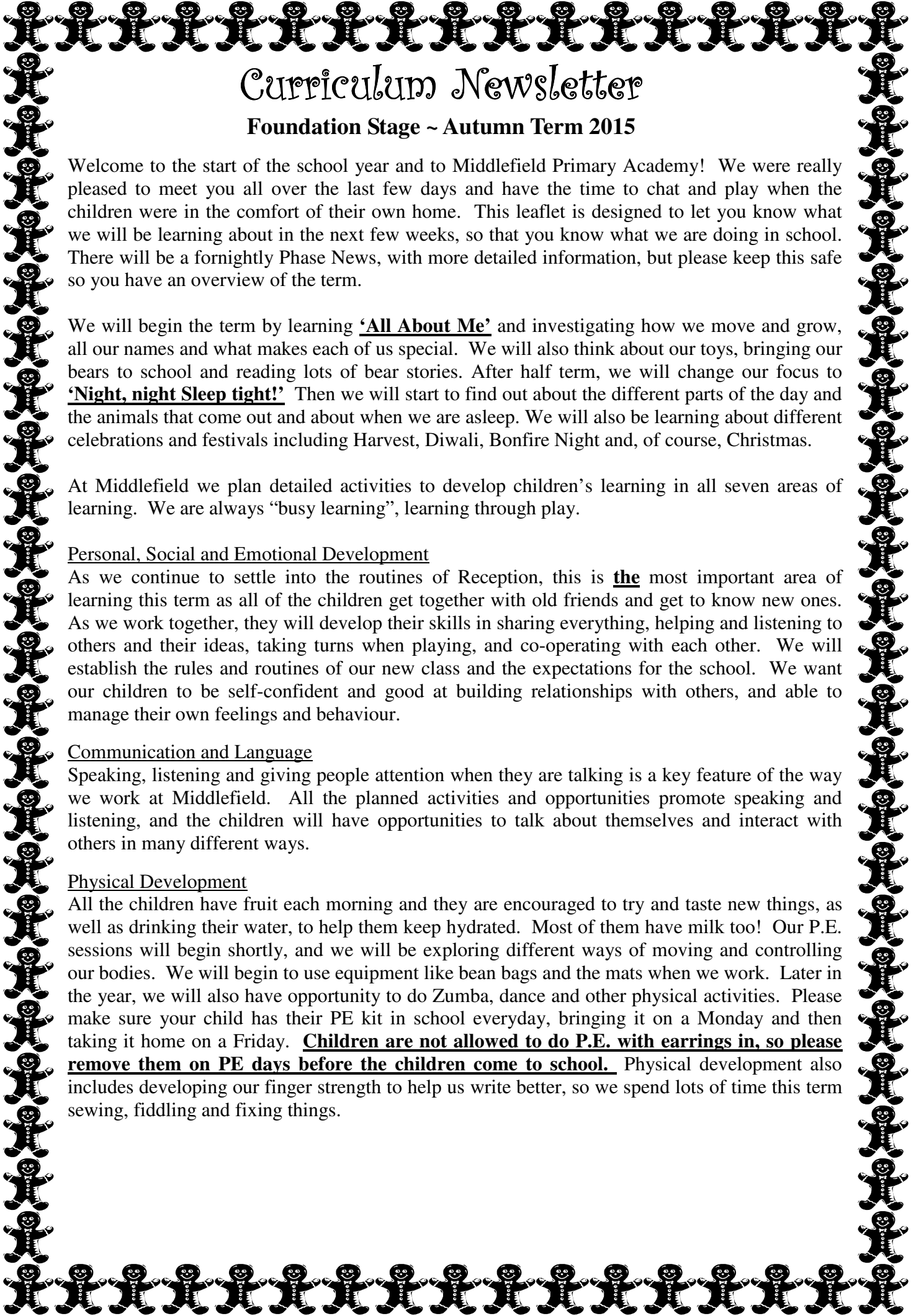




Curriculum Newsletter

Foundation Stage ~ Autumn Term 2015

Welcome to the start of the school year and to Middlefield Primary Academy! We were really pleased to meet you all over the last few days and have the time to chat and play when the children were in the comfort of their own home. 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. There will be a fortnightly Phase News, with more detailed information, but please keep this safe so you have an overview of the term.

We will begin the term by learning **'All About Me'** and investigating how we move and grow, all our names and what makes each of us special. We will also think about our toys, bringing our bears to school and reading lots of bear stories. After half term, we will change our focus to **'Night, night Sleep tight!'** Then we will start to find out about the different parts of the day and the animals that come out and about when we are asleep. We will also be learning about different celebrations and festivals including Harvest, Diwali, Bonfire Night and, of course, Christmas.

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

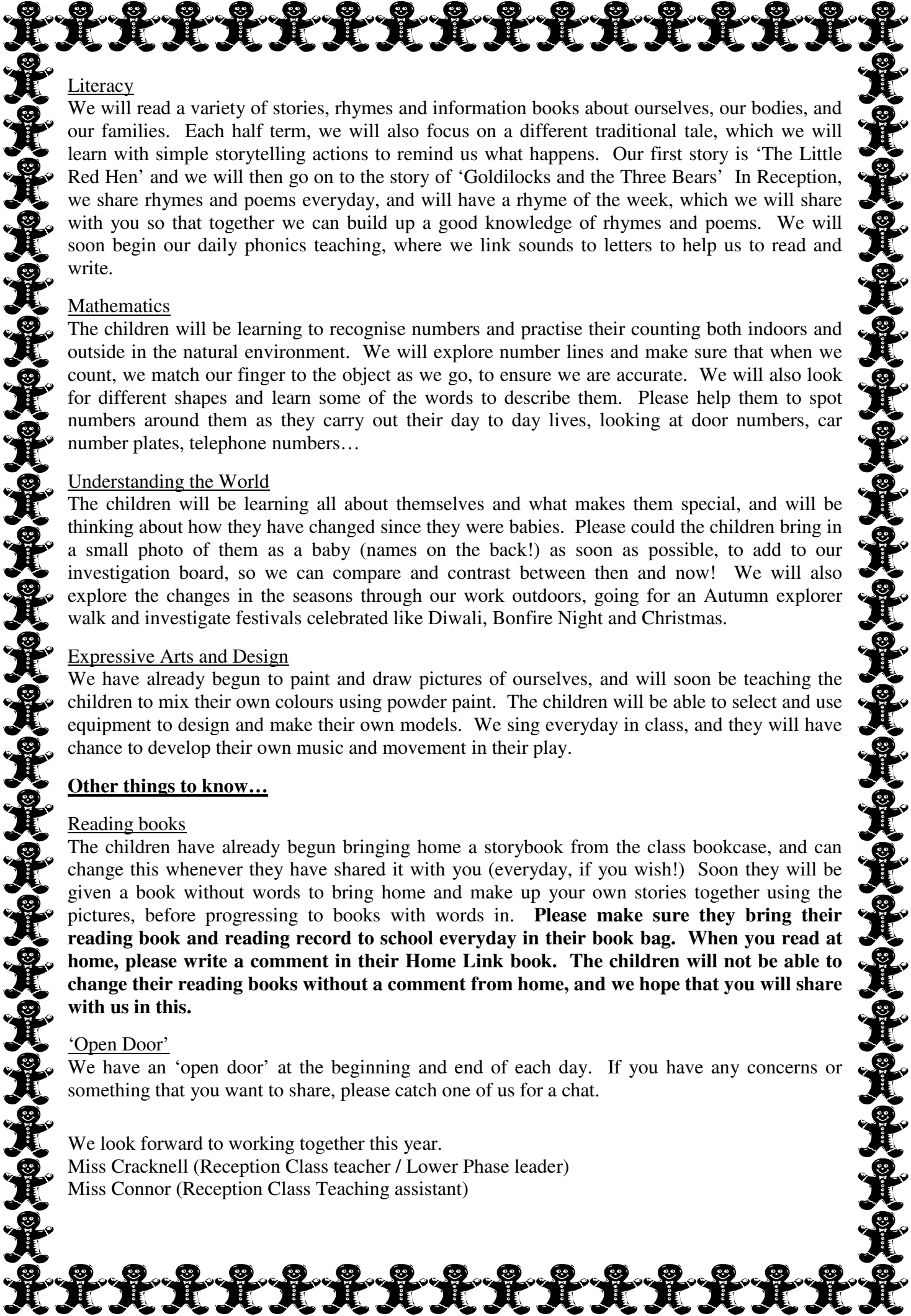
As we continue to settle into the routines of Reception, this is **the** most important area of learning this term as all of the children get together with old friends and get to know new ones. As we work together, they will develop their skills in sharing everything, helping and listening to others and their ideas, taking turns when playing, and co-operating with each other. We will establish the rules and routines of our new class and the expectations for the school. We want our children to be self-confident and good at building relationships with others, and able to manage their own feelings and behaviour.

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.

Physical Development

All the children have fruit each morning and they are encouraged to try and taste new things, as well as drinking their water, to help them keep hydrated. Most of them have milk too! Our P.E. sessions will begin shortly, and we will be exploring different ways of moving and controlling our bodies. We will begin to use equipment like bean bags and the mats when we work. Later in the year, we will also have opportunity to do Zumba, dance and other physical activities. 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 PE days before the children come to school.** Physical development also includes developing our finger strength to help us write better, so we spend lots of time this term sewing, fiddling and fixing things.



Literacy

We will read a variety of stories, rhymes and information books about ourselves, our bodies, and our families. Each half term, we will also focus on a different traditional tale, which we will learn with simple storytelling actions to remind us what happens. Our first story is 'The Little Red Hen' and we will then go on to the story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. In Reception, we share rhymes and poems everyday, and will have a rhyme of the week, which we will share with you so that together we can build up a good knowledge of rhymes and poems. We will soon begin our daily phonics teaching, where we link sounds to letters to help us to read and write.

Mathematics

The children will be learning to recognise numbers and practise their counting both indoors and outside in the natural environment. We will explore number lines and make sure that when we count, we match our finger to the object as we go, to ensure we are accurate. We will also look for different shapes and learn some of the words to describe them. Please help them to spot numbers around them as they carry out their day to day lives, looking at door numbers, car number plates, telephone numbers...

Understanding the World

The children will be learning all about themselves and what makes them special, and will be thinking about how they have changed since they were babies. Please could the children bring in a small photo of them as a baby (names on the back!) as soon as possible, to add to our investigation board, so we can compare and contrast between then and now! We will also explore the changes in the seasons through our work outdoors, going for an Autumn explorer walk and investigate festivals celebrated like Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas.

Expressive Arts and Design

We have already begun to paint and draw pictures of ourselves, and will soon be teaching the children to mix their own colours using powder paint. The children will be able to select and use equipment to design and make their own models. We sing everyday in class, and they will have chance to develop their own music and movement in their play.

Other things to know...

Reading books

The children have already begun bringing home a storybook from the class bookcase, and can change this whenever they have shared it with you (everyday, if you wish!) Soon they will be given a book without words to bring home and make up your own stories together using the pictures, before progressing to books with words in. **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.**

'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.

We look forward to working together this year.

Miss Cracknell (Reception Class teacher / Lower Phase leader)

Miss Connor (Reception Class Teaching assistant)