Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely break and are ready for the busy term ahead.

**Our themes**

Our themes this half term are going to be *The Tiger who came to tea* and *Dinosaurs*. As many of you will have been told the children are going to hold a tea party for the tiger on Friday 25th January. The children have created invitations that they will be bringing home and would like you to join them between 2:00 and 3:00 on Friday 25th January. Please bring blankets and their favourite teddy to join them. They are busy creating decorations, hats, and all the food and drink along with a special trail for you to complete with them. The children have decided this needs to be an outdoor party so please wrap up warm. We have been given special permission to dress up in our party clothes by Mr Jackson too! Please return the slip at the end of the newsletter to indicate who will be attending.

In our *Dinosaurs* we are going to be solving lots of problems in our Numeracy, involving recognising and ordering numerals to 20 and practical addition and subtraction alongside lots of imaginative work.

**Phonics and reading**

We are thrilled with the progress the children are making with their phonics and wish to thank you for the support you are giving them at home with both this and their reading. We are now beginning the next phase of our phonics programme, looking at consonant and vowel digraphs such as sh, ch, th, ng, ai, ee, and so on and introducing some actions to support the children’s recognition of common words that cannot be sounded out (tricky words).

**Spare clothing**

From time to time children will have unavoidable accidents. We endeavour to deal with these as calmly and discreetly as possible. In order to do this it is really helpful if each child has a set of spare clothes in a bag on their peg. Whilst we have a small stock of spare clothing it is more comforting for your child to be wearing their own clothes.

**EYFS workshops**

This term we are offering another set of three workshops. These will focus on developing children’s early writing, numeracy and ICT skills. These will take place on Monday 11th February at 18:00 and then repeated on Thursday 14th February at 18:00. We hope that you will be able to join us for one of these sessions.

**P.E.**

After February half term we will be doing football skills on a Tuesday afternoon and learning how to use the large apparatus in the hall on a Friday morning. The football sessions will take place outside, weather permitting, so we recommend that children wear a tracksuit or sweatshirt and jogging bottoms (Black or Navy blue) over their normal P.E. kit, and that trainers be worn rather than plimsolls. Football boots are not permitted. P.E kits to be in school at all times please.

**Class mascots**

Colin the Crocodile and Edward the Elephant have their suitcases packed and will continue to come home with the children each weekend this term (please return to school on a Monday). They would love to take part in your everyday family activities. Perhaps they could watch your child’s swimming lesson or go for a walk or a bike ride with them. All we ask is that you take some photos and do some writing or drawing with
your child to add to their diaries. It would be lovely if every child could contribute to the diary over the course of the school year. If you have a special day out or holiday planned see your child’s teacher to book the mascot in for some extra fun family time with you. Many thanks to all those who have looked after Colin and Edward already this year.

**Learning Journey observations**

Thank you to all those parents who have sent in observations from home, they have been fantastic and there are definitely some gold stars for some families who have sent in very regular observations. As said in the Autumn workshops your contributions are needed to help build up your child’s learning journey and to send us evidence that we will never get the chance to see in school. Please send anything and everything into us, this could be on a post it note, piece of paper, the back of a cereal box or photographs. Remember you can email straight to us too:

- dave@lyppardgrange.worcs.sch.uk - Crocodiles
- gse3@lyppardgrange.worcs.sch.uk - Elephants

Please remember as stated in the Autumn workshops that these email addresses are strictly for sending in evidence for your children. They are only checked weekly, so please do not send general correspondence via these emails as it will not be seen or responded to.

To get messages to your child’s class teacher please send in a note that is given direct to class teacher on the door and NOT in book bags as these too are only checked weekly.

**Beginning and end of day routines**

Thank you for your support at the beginning and end of the day as the children are now becoming very independent at organising themselves. Whilst we do our utmost to ensure that every child has all of their belongings at the end of a day there may be times when they need to re-enter the building to collect a forgotten item. If this is the case we ask that you wait until every child has been dismissed to avoid congestion at the door. Likewise, if you need to speak to a teacher at the end of the day, please wait until every child has been dismissed before approaching staff to ensure that all children have a clear view to their parents. Thank you. Although we understand many children will be going on to other activities after school, we cannot guarantee which child or class will be first out. Whichever class is ready first will be first to leave and the children will have joined their class lines in a fair and orderly fashion.

Finally, many thanks for your support and comments last term and for the cards and gifts we received for Christmas.

With thanks for your support this term,

Dave Groves, (EYFS/KS1 Manager)

Mandy Redfern and Gemma Fogwill (Class teachers)

Vanessa Bradley, Amanda Ford, Karen Court-Jones, (Teaching Assistants)

Wendy Sutton (Forest School Teacher)

Donna Jones (1:1 support)
Tiger Party. Friday 25th January

Child’s name ________________________________________________________________

Visitor’s name and relationship to the child ________________________________________________

(For example, Diane Thompson, grandma)

Signed ___________________________________________ Date __________________________