Here are a few of things we have been doing at school this week - please make time to talk to your child about what we have been learning during our third week back. You can use this sheet as a gentle reminder!

- **Our topic for this half term is Sparkle and Shine!** So far we have explored bonfire and fireworks night and this week we have also been investigating the celebration of Diwali!
- **In Literacy** we have been learning more about Diwali by reading the book *Lighting a lamp: A Diwali Story* and watching the story of *Rama and Sita* performed by shadow puppets. We had a go at retelling the story with our own stick puppets and sequencing the story using pictures.
- We have made some clay divas - these are candle holders as Diwali is the festival of light. We have also created the most beautiful rangoli patterns - these patterns are placed by people's doors to welcome visitors - ours can be seen in between our two classrooms.
- **In Math's** we have been learning about money and recognising coins. We have learnt that there are two 1penny's in a 2p coin and 5 1penny's in a 5p coin. We now know and can recognize the value of each coin by looking at the number on it but sometimes do forget that its not just a 5, its 5 penny's. We have also played shops this week - buying different items from our shop and counting out the correct money. If possible please encourage the children to look at money and maybe even pay for some items when out and about with you to help them with this.
- **We are continuing our phonics and have been recapping all the sounds and actions we have learnt so far.** This week we have been learning about digraphs. A digraph is two letters that make one sound. The sounds we have learnt this week are /sh/, /ch/ /th/ and /ng/. We have also been thinking about words that have these sounds in - please keep thinking at home too. Please continue to encourage the children to have a go at completing their 'homework' in the red sound books.
- **In PE** we continue to work on our Nativity dance. The children have thought of some wonderful moves to go with the piece of music and we are hard at work learning and putting actions to all of the Nativity songs.
- **The weather has been cold this week so some of us have decided that we would rather stay in the warm this week! However a vast majority of the children has still wanted to go outside and have been having lots of fun playing on the bikes and in the sheds.**

**Coats!**
As the weather continues to get colder, please make sure your child has a named coat, and possibly some gloves or a hat, in school. It would be great if the children could also practice zipping up the coats as this is something they struggle with.

**Reading Books**
Please note that we will be sending home reading books during the weeks commencing Monday 2nd and 9th of December as usual. On Friday 13th December we will remove all books and the yellow contact books for the holidays. You will then start receiving reading and library books again when we return to school in January.

**Dates for the Diary**
Christmas Fair 3.30pm-5.00pm Friday 6th December
Carol Service at the church Tuesday 17th December
Last day of term Friday 20th December

**Next week's special theme .... Diwali continued**

*The Early Years Team ©*