Welcome back after, what we hope was a restful Christmas break! We are really proud of how the children have settled back into the school routine this week and how they have come in to school independently – very grown up! Well done!

- We would like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Bullett, who will be in Sprinters class on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and Mrs Littlechild, who will be in Sprinters class on Thursdays and Fridays. We are all very excited to have them as part of our Early Years team!

- In Literacy we have had to help Benny Bear and Betty Bear. They were very upset over the holidays they couldn’t finish their thank you cards because they couldn’t write their name. The children talked about this and decided they needed to be set a goal – something that Benny and Betty needed to get better at. The children then decided to think of a goal for themselves, and we then wrote about our ideas. We all carefully thought about the sounds we could hear in the words we wanted to write, checked how they were formed on our sound mat and then carefully wrote them down. Super writing all round!

- In relation to our super goal writing (and including some maths work!) we have also made some ‘goal’ gingerbread men. We had to measure out the ingredients using the scales and recognize when we got to the correct amount. We then had to flatten the dough out onto the table using the heel of our hands. Then we cut out our gingerbread men/women! We hope you enjoyed eating them at home!

- In Math’s we have been continuing our work on counting and recognizing different numerals. The children were allowed to be a little more independent in maths this week as they were allowed to choose which activity they would do. We had number cards and cubes and had to match up the right number of cubes to the numeral and put our muddled number cards in to the correct order. We started with 0-10 and as a challenge some of us had to order 0-20. We also had an interactive whiteboard game we could play, where we were matching our numbers to different amounts of counters.

- We are continuing our phonics and have now learnt the sounds and actions for the phonemes /oo/ (moon), /oo/ (Book)/ar/ /or/. We have also been thinking about words that start with these sounds – please keep thinking at home too. Please have a go at completing your ‘homework’ in the red sound books – remember to use a pencil not a felt tip or pen. Don’t forget to keep practicing our red spiky tricky words too!

- We have made new snack mats this week – thinking carefully about the favourite fruit and vegetables we like to eat, choosing the right colours for these fruit and vegetables and then drawing these on the interactive whiteboard. The children did a wonderful job and their new snack mats look amazing!

**Reading Books**

Some of you will have received one of our super new reading books this week. Please can we remind you not to put water bottles in book bags – they very easily leak and if the books get wet they will be spoilt. We hope this set will last us a long time and that the children will take great care of these super new stories and information books. We will not be able to replace damaged books.

**Dates for the Diary**

Mrs Smith’s Parents Evening – Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th January

Superhero dress up day – Thursday 16th January

Reading Open afternoon – Wednesday 30th January

Miss Smolinski’s Parents Evening – Monday 13th and Thursday 16th February

Half Term – week beginning Monday 17th February

**Next week’s special theme ….. SUPERHERO week!**

A very Happy New Year to you all from The Early Years Team 😊