



9th January 2026

Excalibur Primary School

Term: Spring 1 Week: One

Reception Class Newsletter

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. It is lovely to be back. The children have settled into our school routines very quickly, despite our unexpected closures and the disruption to our usual school routines.



'We're Going on a Lion Hunt' is our featured story this week. We have enjoyed going on our own lion, bear or even tiger hunts. We have compared it with 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and other similar stories we have read.

Read Write Inc. Phonics

We have begun the New Year, with new RWI groups. The class continue to be grouped into 4 progress groups. Everyone is doing really well and as we keep saying we are so proud of them all. Some children are reading paper ditty sheets, which are read before the first reading books. In RWI terms a ditty is a story made up of a few short unpunctuated sentences. We will read these for a further week or so until they are ready for the red books. They will continue to bring home the lilac sound blending books too. Sometimes we ask children to reread a book they may have already read. This is to give extra practice until they are ready to move on. These children will be learning the special friends; sh, ch, th, qu, ng, ck and nk which can be found in the back of the green set 1 sound blending books. Two groups have begun to read green books and are beginning to learn set 2 sounds (ay, ee, igh, ow, oo, ir, air, ou, or and oy). Information about set 2 sounds has been posted onto Seesaw for those children who have started learning them. A final group are learning their set 1 sounds.

Have a wonderful weekend from the EYFS team

Super stars

There are no stars this week. Everyone is a star for settling back so well, despite the disruption.



Mystery Reader

Thank you to our first mystery reader of 2026. Pacha's Grandma came to read to us. If you would like to be a mystery reader please let us know. You are very welcome to have another turn.



We are planning to make some bird feeders and are therefore asking for clean empty plastic bottles that we can use. The size in the picture is perfect. Please could you send anything suitable into school next week? Many thanks.

Maths

This week we have been spotting zero and thinking about its importance as a number, understanding that zero comes before one. We will be using stories such as 'Zero is the Leaves on the Tree' and 'None the Number' to help us with our learning. We have also been practising our number formation. Where can you see zero around your home and what does it mean? E.g. if you had 2 bowls, 1 with 5 peas and 1 that was empty you might say 'There are zero peas in the bowl'.

Dates Ahead:

13th February – finish for half term

23rd February – back to school

19th March – Reception trip to the Hat Museum, Stockport (details will follow later in the term).

