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### Christmas Holiday Topic Homework

Dear Families,

The run up to Christmas is always a busy one, but the children have coped really well and worked very hard. Many of them have taken part in their very first nativity and we are very proud of each and every one of them; it is not easy to stand up in front of people the way they did, so I'm sure that you agree how wonderful they were.

Our topic after the Christmas holiday is called 'Starry Night' – we will explore the differences between the world at night compared with day, through a range of exciting and creative activities. We will find out about nocturnal animals and how they find food when it is dark. We will find out about people who work at night and the different jobs that people do when we are asleep. We will discuss bedtime routines and the importance of a good night's sleep. We will explore the night sky and find out about the Moon and stars.

We have created a Topic Overview to give you a taste of everything we will be covering next term, including how you can help your child at home. This overview is also available on the school website.

In preparation for our topic, we would like both Nursery and Reception children to complete one piece of good quality topic homework which needs to be brought into school on the first day back – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Each child is encouraged to share and discuss their work with a group of peers before we incorporate it into a topic display.

#### Topic Homework

- 1) Go on a short walk somewhere familiar during the day and then go on the same walk after dark. Take a torch so you can shine it at different features. Think about what you see and hear on the daytime walk and what you see and hear on the nighttime walk. Are they the same/different? Draw and label some pictures to show what you found.
- 2) Talk about bedtime routines and the importance of a good night's sleep. Draw bedtime pictures, make a list of bedtime activities, or create a routine chart.
- 3) Find out some facts about a nocturnal animal. Make a poster to show what you have learnt.
- 4) Go outside on a clear night and look at the sky. Draw a picture of what you can see.
- 5) Design and make telescope for looking at the stars.

Please encourage your child to share stories with you every day as this really helps with their language and literacy development. Reception children should also continue to read their reading books. In maths this term, we have been practicing our subitising; this is the ability to recognise an amount without having to count it, counting and addition. Games with dice are great to practice this, so if you have any family game time over the holiday, get the children to roll the dice and see if they can recognise the number without having to count it. If the game involves two dice, then they can practice their addition.

We hope you have a lovely, restful holiday.

Best wishes and a very Merry Christmas, from The Pegasus Team

