Welcome to December with 6/7 year olds! It is a wild, exciting and exhausting time of year. With all that said, this is my FAVORITE time of year! I love the writing, reading, math and craft activities we do this time of year, and I LOVE the EXCITEMENT! These are going to be the fastest couple of weeks. We will focus on reading many versions of the Gingerbread Man stories and comparing them. We will also connect with the holidays by reading both fiction and nonfiction books about reindeer. Ask your kiddos about the visitor that showed up on while we were away for Thanksgiving. He is small, red and travels back and forth from our classroom to the North Pole. His name is Santa Little Elf, and he is here to help us learn.

What we will be doing?

- **Read Aloud:** We are listening to many different versions of the Gingerbread Man. We will compare the various books. As we read, we talk about characters, beginning, ending and repeated phrases. Our first 4 books are similar in structure and setting. Then we look at how an author can view the same topic in a different way with their own twist.

- **Writing:** We will keep track of the adventures our classroom elf takes us on. We will write a daily journal to practice capital letters, spaces and punctuation. We will also write an informational piece about reindeer.

- **Math:** We will continue to work on strategies to solve addition facts, word problems, and subtraction facts. **We have learned about doubles, doubles plus 1, counting up, using a number line and we will begin to learn about Make a Ten.** These strategies help the children become more fluent with the facts.
  
  o **At home:** It is very important for the children to learn their basic math facts. You can use a set of flash cards from the dollar store, or a deck of cards to help you practice these facts.

- **Reading:** We will continue to work on reading new words and new books. Please continue to read with your children at home. Each week we are adding 5-8 new words to our reading and writing list. From these words, the children are learning about sound patterns and structures. They are using these patterns and structures to help them problem solve.
other unknown words. If your child comes to a word they do not know, ask them to look for chunks or sounds they know. We have been working on this in class.

- At home, you can use the list of sight words for first grade to help strengthen the skills for reading and writing. Practice a few each week.

**Dates to Remember:**
* December 8th - Early Release Day
* December 16th - Holiday Concert (No attendance) More information from the Music teacher.
* December 17th - Holiday Hat Theme Day - Decorating Gingerbread Cookies
* December 20th - Crazy/Holiday Sock Day
* December 21st - Ugly Sweater Day