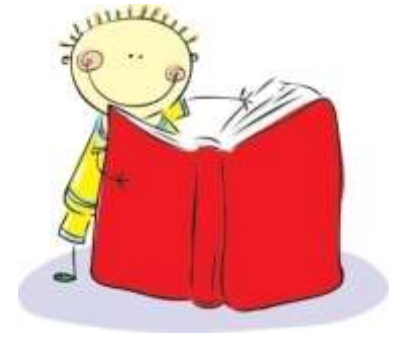


Reception Newsletter

Friday 31st January 2025

In phonics this week the children have learnt a new trigraph: **air** (**chair in the air**). The children know a trigraph is 'three letters, one sound.' The children have also learnt '**er**' (**a bigger digger**) which is a digraph, 'two letters, one sound.' We have been focusing on double letters this week too (dd, mm, tt, bb, rr, gg, pp, ff) and how we quite often find double letters in the middle of longer words and know these as digraphs too. The children have been reviewing previous Tricky Words taught and learning the following new Tricky Words this week: *are*, *sure* and *pure*. I will send copies home so you can practise these new ones.



Tricky Words do not follow the normal phonic patterns so children need to learn to recognise the word and read them on sight. In our lessons we discuss what the tricky part of each word is, for example, in the word 'my' the 'y' is the tricky part because in this word it doesn't make the regular 'y' sound, it makes an 'i' sound. Ask your child what the tricky part is and see if they can tell you. You can play different games to support the children reading these words. You may like to have the words face down on the table/floor, ask the child to turn a word over, can they read it and say a sentence with that word in it? They could get a point for each word they read correctly. You could write numbers on the back of the word card (1-6) and then roll a dice and then ask the child to pick a word with that number on and read it and place that word in a sentence. Or use any other fun way to practise reading these words so the children can learn to read them on sight.

It was lovely to welcome parents into Reception this week. The children loved having you in, showing how good they are at their phonics and they loved playing with you. We hope you enjoyed it too! We look forward to seeing more parents in class next week.





In maths this week the children have been focusing on 1-5 and we have also focused on 6, 7 and 8. The children have been counting forwards and backwards (0-8). The children have been looking at subitising this week too. The children have looked at dot formations on dominoes and have used tens frames to represent the total number of dots on the domino.

This week the children have enjoyed finding out about our new topic, 'Chinese New Year.' I have added the website we have used below. The children have enjoyed finding out about Chinese traditions and customs at this special time. We learnt about the Chinese Zodiac and the children know we are in the year of the snake. The children also discovered that they were either born in the year of the pig or the rat. We have been making Chinese Dragons, writing about Chinese New Year, creating Chinese symbols with playdough and making snakes. We studied the 'Story of Nian' and how Chinese New Year came to be, it was a bit scary but the children loved it!

Another holiday is fast approaching and we would be very grateful for any volunteers who would be willing to look after our lovely chickens over the half term break. Volunteers can sign up to a few days each but you can do as many or as few days as you wish. If you would be interested in looking after them please could you let me know by grabbing me after school, send the office an email or via the contact book. Please state the dates that you would like to have the chickens and a contact number for the rota. Many thanks.

Reception have Woodland Learning on **Tuesday 4th February** and it has been very cold lately so please ensure children are dressed appropriately, with lots of layers to keep warm. Please ensure the children come into school fully dressed in their Woodland Learning clothes as we will be going outside straight away. Please have their school uniform in a separate bag and another separate bag to put wellies in. Many thanks.

Here are some of the websites we have used this week:

[Caterpillar Ordering - An Ordering and Sequencing Game](#)

[Pick A Picture](#)

[Chinese New Year](#)

Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Dale