

# Reception Newsletter

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024

In phonics this week we have been continuing our work in Phase 4 and we have been focusing on consonant blends again, as well as revising digraphs/trigraphs previously learnt. The children have been learning words with four sounds in and which contain one digraph such as: champ, chimp, shift, smash and drink. We have also learnt some more new Tricky Words this week: some, come, love and do. Tricky Words are the words which ignore our normal phonics patterns and sounds as the letters are 'naughty' and make different sounds in Tricky Words. I have provided a hard copy of the new Tricky Words so the children can have a go at reading these (and writing them if they would like to) at home. Please also revise the previous Tricky Words I sent home last week.



In maths this week we have continued to focus on numbers 1-20. The children played various games where they had to estimate how many items there were in a (larger) group and then count those items (objects/counters) by organising the objects in order to make counting easier and more accurate. The children discussed counting strategies such as organising the objects into rows of 2, 5 or 10 to make counting larger amounts easier as well as moving objects or if they cannot be moved, crossing out ie if you are counting a large number of items on paper. We have also practised counting in 10s to 100 this week, which the children have loved!

We started the week with 'Earth Day' on Monday where we took part in a live-stream assembly by some of the BBC team behind the 'Planet Earth 3' series. The children were fascinated to learn about some amazing wild animals and the ways they have adapted to live alongside humans; they particularly enjoyed seeing the very cheeky monkeys in Bali who trade stolen goods for food!

The children have been very egg-cited (!) by our new chick topic this week! The eggs went into the incubator on Wednesday and then our 21day countdown to hatching day began! The children are so keen to find out about the chick's development inside the egg each day and we have started to keep a chick diary so that we can follow their progress. The children have

been fascinated by the incubator and how it works and cannot wait for the eggs to hatch so they can hold the chicks!

The children have also learnt about the life cycle of a chicken this week and have enjoyed our 'chick' related activities such as: making a chick development chart, looking through non-fiction books and writing interesting facts about chicks and chickens, painting chicks, hens and cockerels, building safe enclosures for chicks and creating repeating patterns on large egg templates. They have been very busy!

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs McKiernan

