

Reception Newsletter

Friday 10th May 2024

In phonics this week the children have been reading Phase 4 words which have been longer than in previous sessions such as: tantrum, chapter, forest, freshness, chimpanzee and shampoo. First, we ask the children to identify the digraph (two letters, one sound) in the word and then we have been decoding the sounds and blending them to read the word. After a few goes at reading the word we

encourage the children to have a go at reading the word fluently. The children have also focused on compound words this week such as: windmill, sandpit, lunchbox and handstand. In our sessions where we focus on compound words, we talk to children about chunking. We split the words into their root words which make up the compound word, then talk about how the two root words create a new word with a new meaning. I have attached another set of new Tricky Words as the children have been learning some more this week (there, when, what, one).



It was wonderful to have parents back in the classroom again for phonics and stay and play sessions! Thank you for coming in, I know the children absolutely loved it and we hope you did too! We look forward to seeing more parents in class next week.

In maths this week the children have been focusing on finding more and using the language 'first,' 'then' and 'now' to tell simple maths stories to practise adding 'more' in real life contexts ie, First there were 2 people on the bus. Then, 2 more people got on the bus. Now how many people on the bus? The children had a bus and paper cut-outs of passengers so they could physically move the passengers to help them work out the answers.

We will be changing the reading books more regularly now that we are in the summer terms and the children's phonic knowledge has progressed; usually on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday and, as always, when you have indicated that they have read their book twice. We still won't change them every day as it is beneficial to read the same book more than once (if the books are shorter) to help the children recognise more words and build confidence. It also allows time to read longer books if it is too much to read in one night for some children. As the books get longer it means you can read half one night and the rest the next night. However, if your child is happy to read it all in one night that is great too! Also, please do make a note in the contact book each time that you read with your child as that is really useful to us. Many thanks.

The children had a lovely Woodland Learning session with Year 1 this week – the weather was glorious for us! The children loved playing Hide and Seek and reading the story 'The Squirrels who Squabbled' and discussing woodland creatures. The children then made woodland creatures out of clay and they engaged in all the other normal Woodland Learning activities. I have attached some photos below for you.

The children have loved our new mini topic of 'Amazing Eggs' which we have started this week. The children made fantastic pictures of animals which hatch from/lay eggs using various different materials. They looked fab! They have also had fun creating their own non-fiction book all about animals that lay eggs – I have been super impressed with the beautiful writing and I can see our handwriting practise is paying off! Well done children!

Half term is just around the corner so I would be really grateful for any help with our lovely chickens. If you would be interested in looking after them please let me know. The chickens will need to stay locked up in the coop to protect them from the fox when we are not in school. You will only need to visit once a day, or every other day, to feed them and change their water.

We are also hoping our chicks are going to hatch next week too! The children are very excited for the new arrivals. We will also then be asking if any parents would be willing to take our chicks home for the week in half term? It doesn't have to be the whole week, the duty can be shared with others like we do for the chickens. If you would be interested in this please let us know. The chicks have a cage and a heat lamp for a good few weeks after they hatch so if you would like to look after them you would need to be able to hang the heat lamp up and keep it on all day and night please. Any help with this is much appreciated.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs McKiernan

Woodland Learning



