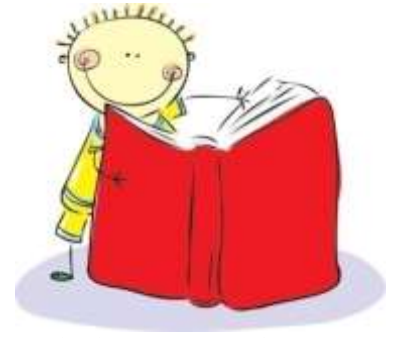


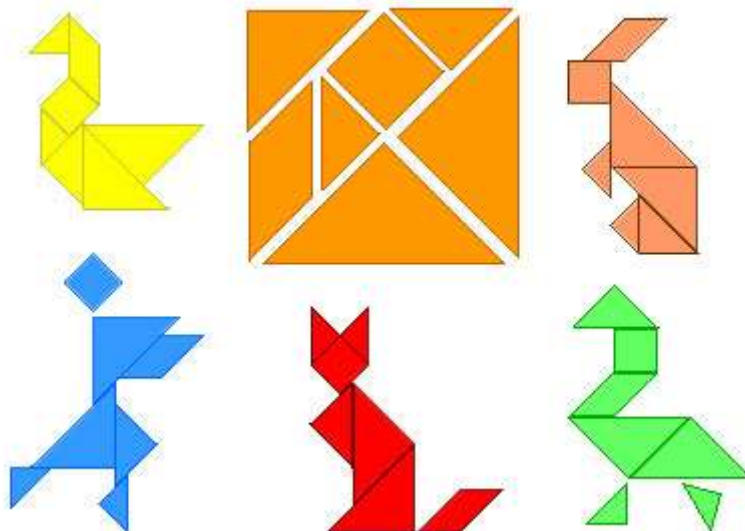
Reception Newsletter

Friday 3rd May 2024

In phonics this week the children have been practising reading words with Phase 3 long vowel sounds: ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, **oo**, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, and er. The children have also been reading words with Phase 2 digraphs: ck, sh, th, ch, ng, nk. We have been focusing on getting the children to look at the word, decode the sounds and then blend the sounds in their heads before reading the word fluently (out loud). The children have been reading words such as: stamp, twist, swift, scrunch, squelch and garden. Our new tricky words this week are: **were, here, little, says**



In maths this week we have been focusing on 2D shapes, their names and their properties. The children have also been creating tangram pictures using 2D shapes by rotating shapes and changing their orientation. Tangram is an ancient Chinese shape puzzle where a square is divided carefully into seven different shapes which can be used to produce wonderful and creative patterns. Pictures can be made with these shapes by moving them around! Here are some examples:



In RE the children have been learning about Old Testament stories and what we can learn from them. We read the story of Noah and the Great Flood and considered what it means to make a promise. We also read the

story of Sarah and Abraham and considered God's promise to them and what it means to trust someone.

In Science this week the children have been learning about planting and growing and have all brought home a sunflower seed which they planted themselves (see note below). They have learnt how to properly take care of plants and are excited to see how tall theirs will grow! We'd love to know how they get on so please keep us updated about how the plants are doing. A great activity you could do at home, if you wish, is to help your child keep a sunflower diary where they take a photo or draw a picture of it and measure it each week to see how it is developing.

The children have been fascinated by the development of the chicks inside the eggs and have loved looking at the embryo photos each day to see how they are developing. We are hoping to have chicks hatching in class the week after next...fingers crossed!

The children were very surprised by a special visitor to our classroom on Wednesday. Miss Hall brought her pet corn snake, Poppy, to meet us because she knew we are learning about animals that lay eggs!! The children were a little nervous to begin with but, after we had all found out a bit more about her and had seen how friendly she was, everyone was keen to give her a little stroke! The children thought of some great questions to ask about snakes and now know what they use to smell and what they eat – maybe you could ask them to tell you?

Finally, just a little reminder that we will have our second Woodland Learning session of the term next week, on Thursday 9th May.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs McKiernan

Taking care of your sunflower:

- Put the pot in a sunny spot either on a windowsill or in the garden – don't forget to water it if it feels dry!
- When the shoot is established and the plant is looking big for the pot either transfer it to a bigger pot or it can be planted directly into the soil in the garden. With either option you do not have to take it out of the current pot as it is biodegradable so it will just break down in the soil.
- Continue to care for your plant and watch it grow!

Sunflower Planting



Poppy the Snake

