

Reception Newsletter

Friday 12th January 2024

We have had a very busy first week together and I have really enjoyed working with the children and getting to know them!



In phonics this week the children revised sounds already learnt (Phase 2) and focused on recognising and reading the following graphemes from Phase 3 which we started this week: - **ai (tail in the rain), ee (sheep in a jeep), igh (a light in the night) and oa (soap that goat)**. The children have learnt that 'two letters, one sound' is known as a digraph and 'three letters, one sound' is known as a trigraph (igh – a light in the night). The children have been practising reading and writing words with the new sounds in. We have also been learning letter names by singing the alphabet. The children know the letters all have a name, but also make their own sounds, sometimes this distinction can be tricky and at this stage the children sometimes can get muddled. They are trying hard and doing well with this however.

In our maths sessions this week the children have been practising counting to 20, and they have been focusing on calculating with numbers to 5. We have compared sets of objects and used the language 'more,' 'most,' 'fewer' and 'fewest' to compare sets. The children have been counting and comparing sets of objects to 5 and have been using 5 frames to represent the objects. We have been learning number bonds to 5 ie 1 and 4 make 5, 2 and 3 make 5 etc.

Thank you so much for all the lovely exotic fruits which the children brought in this week! We had great fun sampling the different fruits and finding out where in the world they came from. The children really enjoyed looking at maps of the world and learning about different countries and which fruits grow there. The children were great at having a go at trying the different fruits and lots have discovered new fruits they would like to try again at home. We carried out a class survey and recorded our results in a tally chart to see which fruit was most popular.

Also, as part of our 'Keeping Healthy' topic, the children created healthy dinner plates, they drew the different exotic fruits they brought into school and sorted plastic food into the different food groups. The children have shown a great understanding of healthy eating – great job!

As we have been thinking about our 'Keeping Healthy' topic this week and discussing how we need to eat 5 pieces of fruit and vegetables each day, I have enclosed a 'Fruit and Veg' chart for the children which they can use at home if they wish. There is a sixth box for a bonus piece of fruit or veg if they manage to eat more than five in a day! They have shown a great interest in what can be included in their 5 a day and this may be a nice way for them to think about what they are eating at school and at home.

We have made the most of the cold weather and used the water which froze in our outside water tray to experiment with ice painting – a chilly but fun way to explore colour mixing and ice melting!

Finally, today we had a very special treat – a visit from the author Paul Linnet! He read his new 'Supertato' book to us and we were then lucky enough to have a drawing workshop with him, learning how to draw different emotions on faces. What a fantastic way to end the week!



Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs McKiernan