

# Reception Newsletter

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

In phonics this week the children revised sounds already learnt- **ai (tail in the rain), ee (sheep in a jeep), igh (a light in the night) and oa (soap that goat)**. They also focused on recognising and reading the following new graphemes this week: **oo (zoom to the moon), oo (hook a book), ar (march in the dark)**



**and or (born with a horn)**. The children have been sorting words with both 'oo' sounds in and they have been practising reading and writing words with all the new sounds in. We have also learnt the new Tricky Words: was, you and they. I have sent these words home so the children can have a go at recognising them and start reading them fluently. Please keep reading through the previous Tricky Words sent home too in previous weeks, many thanks.

In our maths sessions this week the children have been practising counting to 20, and we have continued to focus on calculating with numbers to 5. The children have explored number bonds to 5 using Numicon and they have used 5 frames to visualise number bonds to 5 and learn them off by heart. Also, this week, we have been investigating capacity and the children had to predict how many spoonsful of water different containers could hold.

The children enjoyed listening to the story of 'Handa's Surprise' and acting out scenes from the story. The children worked in groups to order the story events and used stick puppets to re-tell the story. We have been discussing the beginning, middle and the end of stories.

The children loved finding out about Africa, the setting for 'Handa's Surprise', and exploring the different animals which live in Africa. The children created their own fact books about African animals. They are fantastic, the children are really using their phonic knowledge well to develop their writing!

As we have been thinking about our 'Keeping Healthy' topic this week, oral hygiene in particular, I have sent home a tooth brushing chart the children may like to use to keep track of how often they do it. We discussed the importance of keeping our teeth healthy and we discussed what happens when we visit the dentist - all the children are eager for their next check up!

The children were delighted to find more ice in our water tray in the outdoor area this week! They were fascinated by the ice and frost so we decided to make ice decorations using natural resources and they looked fab. The children were so excited to find their decorations had frozen overnight and had lots of fun hanging them outside. We had lots of great discussions about solids and liquids and why and how water melts and freezes.



Unfortunately, our Woodland Learning session will not go ahead as planned next week because some trees and part of the shelter came down in some recent bad weather and it is not really possible to use the area safely at the moment. I will let you know when our next session is planned.

Please can the children bring in a photo of them as a baby and a recent photo of them by **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January**. I would like the children to share these photos with one another as part of our RE lesson the following week. Many thanks.

The children have worked really hard and they have filled their star pot to the top with pom poms and have earned themselves a treat! We voted on the treat they would like and they are going to have a pyjama party! On **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January** please can the children come to school dressed in suitable pyjamas/onesies. They can bring slippers (or their school shoes/fluffy socks are fine if they do not have slippers) so that they can change into them once in class. I will provide the children with some nibbles for our party as it is their reward. The children can also bring in their favourite teddy/cuddly toy for the afternoon party. As many pyjamas are not very warm please can you ensure children have leggings/tights/ vests etc under them to ensure they are layered up against the cold as they will still be going out to play in them as usual. Many thanks.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs McKiernan