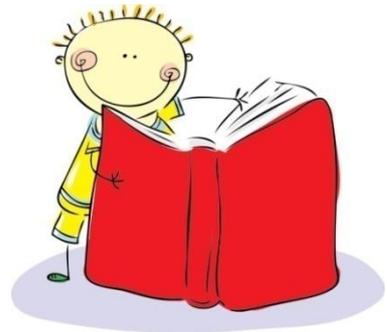




Reception Newsletter

Friday 25th September 2020

Wow, I cannot believe we have reached the end of our first week already, it has gone so quickly! The children are settling into their new school routine really well and I hope they are not feeling too tired yet. They are doing really well coming into school. Well done children!



The children have had a really busy week learning, playing and making new friends. We have started to cover a little bit of phonics this week and we have introduced the children to the sounds the letters make from a – z ie ‘a’ as in ant, ‘b’ as in bat etc. Maybe you can see if your child can spot these letters around the home, at the shops or in books you read together and you could discuss the sound they make. The children may be able to show you some of the actions we have learnt to go with each sound.

I have provided the children with a reading book today and a reading buddy (a small cuddly toy which can sit with them whilst they read and enjoy their stories). The children will have a book without text to begin with so that they can become familiar with the structure of a story (beginning, middle and end) and as soon as the children become more confident with the phonics they will be provided with a book with text. This will be as and when they are ready as all children develop at different rates. The books without text are so important in the beginning. There is a prompt card with the story, so you can read the story and the children can look at the pictures. Then each night the children can have a go at re-telling the story to you as they look at the pictures. This helps develop their story telling skills, language and ability to sequence stories, all valuable skills for reading. In the beginning we will change the books once a week, on a Friday and as the year goes on we will change the books more frequently.

Please ensure you send your children’s reading book into school every day with their contact book, in the bookbag we provided you with please. Sometimes we will read with the children in school and we will write comments for you in the contact book so you will know that they have read that day. Please could you also write a little comment each time you read at home with your children so we know how they are getting on at home with their reading books. Also, later on, when we change the books more frequently we will need to know if they have read at home and if the book needs changing. Many thanks.

We usually hold a ‘Phonics Evening’ in school in Term 1 so we can provide parents with information about how we teach phonics as the prime approach to reading; however, as things are different this year I will be recording the session so you can access it via our website. I will let you know when this is available to watch in Term



2. This will then help when you read at home with your children. We would also usually invite you into to watch us teach phonics and then stay and play with the children, but unfortunately at the current time we are unable to offer this, but as the year progresses I hope things will improve and we will be able to invite you into school to do this.

This week the children have been practising counting to at least ten and working on number correspondence this week. We have enjoyed singing lots of number songs such as “five little speckled frogs”, “five little men in a flying saucer” and “five little monkeys jumping on the bed” - all of which the children love as they enjoy the videos on our big smart screen!

Although Reception do not normally receive home learning activities, I would like to ask everyone to prepare an ‘All About Me Box’ ready to bring into school on **Monday 5th October** when the children are all in full time so they can be used as a getting to know each other activity. I would like the children to decorate a box (it could be an old shoe box for example) and clearly have their name on the box. It would be lovely if the children could place items inside the box that will help the other children get to know them a little bit better and find out what their interests are. Items such as a favourite toy, photos of family or pets would be great, along with tickets or leaflets from favourite days out, activities they like doing at home, pictures of favourite foods etc. Basically, anything which the children feel they would like to share with the other children in their class would be great.

Thank you for returning the ‘All About Me’ booklets, I have enjoyed finding out more about the children and hope this was a nice activity to do together over the summer. Their ‘All About Me’ booklets will be placed in their Learning Journals in school.

I hope everyone has been able to access the observations we have carried out on the children this week via the Tapestry online programme. Please do let me know if you have any issues setting this up, we do sometimes encounter technical difficulties, but I have sent everyone their activation email so fingers crossed it has all worked out.

I hope you all have a great weekend and that the children are looking forward to coming to school again next week! We have had a fantastic week getting to know the children and we are looking forward to the year ahead working with the children and parents! 😊

Best wishes,

Miss Dale