

## Newsletter 7th October 2016

### Settling in

We have taken advantage of the lovely weather this week and spent lots of time outside and focussed our learning on a larger scale. The children are really settled and coming into school happy and able to organise themselves. Thank you for all the support and time you have spent working with your children - we are delighted with their progress.

### Phonics

Phonics this week has included the sounds **m**, **k**, **ck**. We have been working with the children on using the existing sounds we know and blending them together. This can be quite tricky initially; we will continue to work with the children each day within the phonics session to develop this skill and their confidence. In our Maths lessons we have been looking at different 2D and new 3D shapes and looking at the different properties and using the mathematical language associated with 3D shapes.

Throughout the week, the children have been writing their first name, and our focus has been on a capital letter to start their name and correct letter formation.

### Reading

The children have had their first experience of reading with a member of our team this week and will be bringing home a reading book appropriate to their ability today. This will be in their book bags and it will be accompanied by a reading diary. We ask that you listen to your child read at least 3 times a week and record their progress in their reading diary. We will read with the children individually next week and we will record our comments in green for you to see. On Monday, the children will be able to begin changing their reading books. The reading books will be situated in Mrs Heywood/Mrs Richardson's classroom and a member of the team will be there to support the children with this new experience. You will be able to change reading books every morning if needed and a new routine will be established. Please remember that you have the opportunity to make reading a really positive experience at home; the books are appropriate to where their phonic awareness is and we as a team will teach the children new skills in order to develop further.

### Next Week

Tempest (the school photographers) will be in school on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October for individual photographs. Children in Early Years who have siblings in school will be collected from their class by their siblings and photographed together. All the team will be there to support the children.

Our phonemes this week will be **e**, **u** and **r**. We will focus on the actions associated with these letter sounds (we follow Jolly Phonics) and have a variety of games and activities to support this. We will introduce a new "tricky word" - **I** - to the children this week. A "tricky word" is a word that you cannot phonetically segment and blend, you just have to know it by sight. These words will be reinforced daily in their phonics sessions.

In maths we will look at counting initially to 10 and then to 20. We will practice counting forwards and backwards, 1 more from a given number and counting accurately. We will use the Numicon to support the children.

In our afternoon sessions, we will be talking about our family and special people in our lives. We are always sensitive to aspects of family life and appreciate that all families are not the same and this is important for our children to understand.

**Homework**

Thank you for the lovely homework pictures. We always share the homework on Friday afternoons in our "Show and Tell" sessions". It is a special time for the children to be able to have the confidence to talk in front of a group of children. If you are unable to send anything in or complete the homework task, then please talk to your child's teacher. The children do get very disappointed when they have no homework to share with their peers.

In preparation for our work on families this week, we would like you to support your children draw a picture of their families or people who are special to them. Please let the children draw the pictures themselves and let us know names etc. on the reverse of the work to prompt the children in show and tell.

Have a great weekend.

**Mrs J Dodd**

**Mrs K Heywood**

**Mrs Z Richardson**