

Newsletter 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Our Learning this Week**

Both classes have been reviewing existing sounds and tricky words, focussing on correct letter formation and sentence structure. Mrs Heywood/Mrs Richardson's group have been looking at CVCC words, letter formation and have transferred their work into their new lined writing books and it looks very smart. Mrs Dodd's group have been reviewing existing digraphs **oi** and **ur** looking at specific words and applying them in our sentence work. In our maths sessions we have been weighing and comparing objects. We have used the weighing scales, compared heavy and light objects, and then used multi-link cubes to see how many cubes are needed to balance the scales accurately. As the weather has been so lovely this week we have been weighing objects outside using our large scales and stones.

**Talk for Writing**

We have been innovating one of our favourite stories, 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. We have changed our characters and where they live, how they move and who lives under the bridge. In small groups, the children have been drawing their story maps and they have grown in confidence when doing this; you will be so amazed at Parents Appointments.

**Junk Modelling materials**

Thank you for the boxes and tubes that have been coming into school this week. The children have been very creative and made some adventurous models. Please continue to bring them into school as we will always need the materials replacing.

**Phonics Workshops 27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> March 9.00 - 9.30 am**

We will be offering an opportunity to come into school and see your children working in their new phonics groups. We will be running the sessions throughout the week and there will be a sign up sheet in the "porch" to indicate the day you wish to attend.

**Maths Workshops 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> April 9.00 - 9.30 am**

We will be offering an opportunity to come into school and see your children working in their maths sessions. We will be running the sessions throughout the week and there will be a sign up sheet in the "porch" to indicate the day you wish to attend.

**National Science Week**

The theme for this year was "changes" and the children have spent all week doing small experiments and watching for changes. We have put the experiments on Twitter every day. The children have been fascinated and having specific weeks like this enables staff and children to participate and learn together. We had a physiotherapist come into school to explain to the children about bones and the body and how they change as they grow. The children were very engaged.

**Next Week**

In phonics we will all review our existing sounds, tricky words and high frequency words each session. Mrs Heywood/Mrs Richardson's group will look at CVCC (consonant, vowel, consonant, consonant), words which use the letter sounds that were learnt in Phase 2 and Phase 3, letter

formation and handwriting and sentence work. Mrs Dodd's group will we will work on the tri-graph **ear** and we will incorporate this in our sentence work each day. In maths we will focus on numbers and counting accurately and reliably. We will work on the formation of teen numbers that is a concept that some children still find tricky, and halving and doubling numbers. We will use Numicon to support our learning and to ensure the children are accurate when counting.

#### **Twitter**

Early Years are regularly tweeting "snapshots" of our day and exciting times and achievements. Please take a look - we are always super proud of our children and this is an excellent way for you to share this with us.

#### **Book Fair Monday 20<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday 21<sup>nd</sup> March at 3.30pm**

There will be a Scholastic Book Fair in the small hall next week. There is always a fantastic selection of books both fiction and non-fiction. They are very reasonably priced and you will be able to use your "World Day Book Tokens" against the price of a book. Please come and support this event and share the love of good quality books that Hartford Primary believes is the key to being a creative and confident writer.

#### **Tempest Photographers Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March**

Tempest will be in school to take a class photograph. The computer-generated copy will be sent home in bags; they are always a lovely keepsake.

#### **Parents Appointments - Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

Please ensure that you have an appointment to talk to your child's teacher. The office team will be able to support you with this. We will share information about your child and how they have developed their individual learning skills, the progress that they have made, and as we move rather quickly to the Summer Term how we can support the children with the move to Year 1. This is known as transition and as a "partnership" we can ensure that this is smooth and exciting.

#### **Stay and Play Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 8.45 - 10.00 am**

This will be our fourth Stay and Play and it will have a "spring" theme. There will be lots of activities for you to share with your children and there will be time at the end of the session to share some lovely books with your children.

#### **Guided Reading**

We will be doing guided reading with your children this week. We work with your children on a higher level of reading book than they bring home each evening. We are able to incorporate the phonics sessions and then apply their learning at the end with a specific task which enables us to ascertain their understanding. You can support your children at home by reading with them as often as possible, we suggest that three times a week is a good start but we do appreciate that it is not always possible as they can be tired or have activities after school. Remember each time you read with your child, put a comment in the reading diary and we can use this when assessing their reading. If you are having any problems with reading please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the team.

**Homework**

To consolidate our engagement with Science week, we would like you to try some of the activities that we have done this week. The most popular one was the science experiment using the skittles (use the link below). It is so simple to do and very effective. You may wish to try something completely different which would be wonderful. You can share your experiments on Tapestry and we will share them with the children in show and tell. They will be very excited.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAAr7EvqWPK>

**Dates for your diary**

<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>Book Fair after school in the small hall</b>
<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>Parents Appointments</b>
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>Stay and Play - 4</b>
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>Phonics Workshops 9.00 - 9.30 am</b>
<b>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>End of Term. Return 18<sup>th</sup> April</b>
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Dental Survey</b>
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>Celebration Assembly 2.45 main hall.</b>
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Maths workshops 9.00 - 9.30 am</b>

Have a great weekend.

**Mrs J Dodd**

**Mrs K Heywood**

**Mrs Z Richardson**