

Early Years Newsletter 13th October 2017

Phonics

Phonics this week has included the sounds e, u and r and the tricky word l. We have been working with the children on using the existing sounds we know and blending them together. We were delighted to see so many of our families attending our phonics drop in sessions this week, the children were delighted to show how much they have learnt this half term. If you were unable to come, and would like to, please speak to Mrs Dodd to arrange a mutually convenient time. In maths this week, we have been focussing on numbers 1 - 10. We have looked at the ordering of the numbers, used number lines and one more and one less along a number line. 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, this has been a challenge job for all our children this week and they are writing their letters with correct formation and pencil control.

Photographs

Tempest the school photographers were in school on Friday and again they managed to make the process of taking the photographs of all our children seem effortless. The prints should be sent home in school bags today, please contact a member of the office team if you have any queries.

Parents Evening

On Wednesday 25th October and Thursday 26th October, it will be Parent/Teacher consultations. In a change to previous years, we are offering an afternoon and an evening session to allow for flexibility for our families and staff. The sign-up sheets will be in the main entrance hall. If you have any problems, please do not hesitate to contact our office team.

Next Week

Our phonemes this week will be h, b, and f. 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 words" - to and the. 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 the numerals 1 – 10 and we will extend this up to 20. We will be using Numicon to support our learning. In our afternoon sessions, we will be talking about our experiences so far in school. We will use the all about me booklet you completed over the summer holidays and see if we addressed the children's apprehension before they started in September.

Reading Books

The children will have 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 on Friday 20th October. This will be in their book bags and a reading diary will accompany it. 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. The reading books will be situated in Mrs Morton/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.

Stay and Play

It will be our very first Stay and Play session on Monday 16th October 9 am – 9.45 am. Please try to stay and experience some of the activities that will be available and to share a special time together. If you are unable to attend, family members are always welcome. Attached is a copy of the activities available and you can share this together before you arrive.

Wellie Walk

We will be going on a Wellie Walk on Monday afternoon around the school grounds (weather permitting), looking at our environment. We will use the experience to enhance our literacy work throughout the week. We ask that you send in a pair of wellies into school on Monday morning in a named carrier bag and hang it on your child's peg. The wellies will go home with the children at the end of the day.

Thank you for the lovely homework pictures of special people and family members. The children were very engaged with this piece of homework and it generated a lot of lovely conversations about special times together. 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.

Homework

As our maths focus has, been number this week we ask that you practice counting with your children where ever your weekend takes you... counting in the car, the bath or on the way home from school. Numbers are just about everywhere and can often go un-noticed. Nothing formal to record; just a fun experience to share.

Have a great weekend. Thank you for all your support.

Mrs J Dodd, Mrs S Morton and Mrs Z Richardson.