

Reception Class - CURRICULUM UPDATE

February 2025

101 Days of School

As part of our *Morning Meeting* routine, we have been counting how many days we have been coming to school. Given that the 100th Day of school falls on a *Forest School* day this year we are excited to be celebrating the **101st Day of School** instead! We can't wait to see the children's costumes, exhibit their projects and share their learning with the wider school.

Dates for Your Diary

101st Day of School - Thursday 13th February

World Book Day - Thursday 6th March

Class Assembly - Friday 14th March

Parents Evenings - Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th March

More information regarding *World Book Day* and our *Class Assembly* will be sent out in due course. Thank you for your continued support and have a lovely half term!

Sustainability

The children have been very inspired by a story shared in recent assemblies called, 'Duffy's Lucky Escape' by Ellie Jackson (author) and Liz Oldmeadow (illustrator). It introduces the issue of ocean plastics using a gentle true story about a turtle who was rescued, rehabilitated and released after eating too much plastic. Based on true events, it encourages readers to reflect on the relationship between humans and wildlife, with suggestions for positive changes. As a result, the children are feeling very enthused to collect plastic bottle tops and other recycled materials to create a collaborative piece of art just as the children in Duffy's community did after completing their beach litter-picks.

Reading and Phonics

We have been working hard on recapping all the Chapter 2 phonics sounds that we have learnt so far this year. When listening to the children read at school, we are now incorporating their individual tins of 'High Frequency Words' and/or a selection of 'Alien Words' so you may find that your child reads a few less pages of their book as we are squeezing in both! We have also been working hard on our Chapter 2 tricky words, which are words that can only be read by sight and can't be sounded out. Your support in practising these sounds and words at home is invaluable. Thank you.

Phonics Shed and Maths Shed

We hope you have all been successful in logging into Phonics Shed online at home and your child/children have now had a go at playing the different Chapter 2 sound games and word games available. Playing these will help to consolidate previous learning. Please do not go further than the additional double sounds yet as we have not taught the sounds beyond that point.

You might have noticed that you can also access Spelling Shed and Maths Shed using the same login. Currently, we would encourage you to start by enjoying Maths Shed. Spelling Shed is a resource the children will learn to access at the beginning of Year 1 through KS1 and KS2. Please ask if you have any questions.

Bird Feeders

At Forest School, the children have spent time identifying and looking for birds in the grounds, as part of the **RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch**, and making bird feeders. We hope the children have hung up their bird feeders at home and are spotting and identifying any special visitors. Please feel welcome to email us photos of birds that visit your garden especially using the bird feeder. You could even be a reporter and send a short video of the birds you see in your garden.

Maths

The children have been applying their knowledge of numbers 0-5 to find the total of groups. We have used our skill of subitising to identify how many there are in each group/set and then using this to help us to work out what the total is. The children have learned this as a 'Part - Part - Whole' strategy. The children's mental maths skills have been fantastic, and we have been using a variety of different resources in the classroom to support this. The children have been matching subitising cards using lines with craft sticks, and picture examples of 'Part - Part - Whole' with linking cubes. We have also used 5 frames to collect objects and then help us to identify how many we have altogether. The children now know how to use the spaces on a 5 frame to help them work out the total, as well as counting the objects on the frames. To extend our early number sense beyond 5 we have introduced a game called 'Dominoes Car Park'. The children place dominoes on a grid based on the number total number of spots on the domino. Before home time, we have also been enjoying singing number rhymes and taking turns to act them out in small groups, for example, Five Currant Buns, Five Speckled Frogs, Five Little Ducks, and Five Little Monkeys!

Tell us a Story

We have enjoyed sharing learning this term within our year-long theme 'Tell us a story'. The children have loved reading, sharing, story-mapping and re-telling the 'traditional tale', *The Three Little Pigs*. We have used this story to help us consider the characters, setting and story and ways we can change them to create our own. We have used objects in the classroom to make our own settings, as well as using the puppets to tell the stories too. The children have been very inspired by versions told through movement (Cosmic Kids Yoga) and dance (A CBeebies Ballet) as well as musical instruments (CBeebies Musical Storyland).

No Place Like Home

This theme has many opportunities, and we plan to continue with this learning after half-term. So far, the children have considered their own familiar houses, learning about the different rooms, as well as the different names and features of different types of houses. They are also to consider 'unusual homes' such as lighthouses and castles and imagine and describe their dream house. We are in anticipation of discovering what different homes look like around the world. Furthermore, the children will explore and learn about tents, caves, shelters and dens as well as animal homes. This will include different names for pets' homes and why they are suitable and identifying wild animals and their homes. Additionally, how we can help to look after these important animal habitats.