



Friday 10th March 2017

Reception Newsheet: Number 10

Classroom updates:

Ducklings:

Reception loved hatching and looking after the ducklings. We watched them through the visualiser on 'duck watch' on the big screen, taught them how to swim in water and had many conversations on how to look after them and keep them safe. A member of staff has taken the ducklings home to raise them until they are old enough to hopefully come back to school and live in our Wildlife Area. We will keep you updated on their progress.



Writing:

This half term we have really been trying to master the elements of putting together a sentence. By the end of the Reception year, your child is expected to 'write simple sentences which can be read by themselves and others' (this is quoted from the curriculum). We teach writing a sentence by using BIG talk. First we think of our sentence. Next we say it out loud with actions. We put our hands over our head to show a capital letter, put our finger out in front of us for a finger space and we use our fist to show a full stop. After this we use our phonics to help hear the sounds in the words we write, e.g. f - ar - m = farm. Once our sentence is written we use our phonics to read it back and check it makes sense.

A couple of (exciting!) changes to Reception:

Learning stories:

We are really excited to tell you about our learning stories that we will be sending home with your child. We plan on sending your child one learning story per half term. We understand that learning does not stop in the classroom and this is why we are going to write your child a letter asking them to extend their learning at home. We may see your child persevering in the construction area, creating a bridge that they role play walking along. We will take a photograph and write an observation (these go into your child's learning journey) and then write a letter asking; I wonder if you could draw a picture to show where your bridge is going? If you and your child respond then we can put this into their learning journey showing how learning at school and at home compliments each other.

Feedback request forms:

I was overwhelmed by some of your comments following the Phonics session I taught in class last week. One parent said to me, "That was brilliant. Thank you for showing me how much my child knows! Your enthusiasm is great!" Your feedback is invaluable and I am not only here to teach your child, but to work with you to help support learning both in school and at home. When you attend an event in my classroom, please do give me feedback so that I know if it was beneficial for you and what/if there is anything I can do to further develop parent sessions.

Outside Area:

You may have seen the Early Years team making some changes outside. We have recently opened up the Nursery, Reception and Year 1 space so that this is shared as we truly believe children can learn from each other, regardless of the year group they are within. We are always looking to improve our outdoor area and with the upcoming warmer days, we are asking for some donations to help sparkle things up a bit! If you have and are willing to donate any of the following items then we would be most grateful:

- Kitchen pots and pans
- Old bicycle wheels
- Plastic flower pots
- Seeds for our growing area
- Car tyres (if you know anybody that could donate a tractor tyre this would be most desired!)
- Logs

Finally, please do remember to write out a WOW slip for your child if you see something with your child that makes you feel proud. We love sharing your WOW moments and often these are things we do not get to see in the classroom!

If you have any questions or you would like to speak with one of us then our door is always open.

The Reception Team