

Dear Parents and Carers,

Weekly Learning Letter Week 2

This week we have been exploring the classroom more and finding out which activities we enjoy. We have found out where the toys are kept and how to take care of our property by tidying away responsibly. We are getting better at sitting on the carpet so that we can sing number songs and share stories together.

We have been getting to know each other; finding out about different families, learning that we are all different and unique. We have painted self-portraits this week which are ready to be displayed outside our classroom leading to the lunch hall.

We are so proud of them! They should be really proud of themselves with what they have achieved so far!

Next Week

To support our learning over the next few weeks, we would love for you to send in family and baby photos of your child to be displayed in our class family book. This can be a printed photo or you are welcome to email them across and we can print them off for you. The photos will be returned to you at the end of the year. Last year the class really enjoyed looking through each page and talking about what they can see (especially looking at the adult's baby and family photos).

PE will begin on Monday. Please send your child into school in PE kit. Miss Kelly and Mrs Maguire will lead Monday afternoon lessons as Mrs Hay is out of class each Monday afternoon.

Also, next week we will begin our Phonics teaching and the children will begin bringing home their home learning. Our ask is that when the child has their reading book that they try to read four times a week, practise their sounds and tricky words.

Children will be bringing home:

- A Phase 2 and Phase 3 sound mat. We begin Phase 2 sounds next week. We learn 4 sounds a week and the sound mat contains all the sounds the children will be taught in Reception.
- A reading diary with a Letterjoin login. The login details are on the back cover. Letterjoin is to support handwriting and how to form the letters. The reading diary is for you to sign and/or comment on how your child read with you at home. If your child has a signed reading record four times a week, they will be in the chance of winning a book. We understand that a written comment may not

always be manageable but if you can sign and date to say your child has read this would be greatly appreciated.

- A Phonics booklet. Each time a new sound is taught we will add a sound to their book. There are activities for them to complete at home.
- Tricky word bookmark. When we begin teaching tricky words (common exception words) we will send home a bookmark for the children to practise reading.
- A book to love. Each Friday the children will choose a classroom book to take home for the week. These books are aimed to promote a love of stories and listening to stories being read. These books will be changed each Friday.
- A book to learn. These books will begin as wordless picture books aimed to promote the children's comprehension skills. These are changed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- The children will be given their sound mat and phonics booklet on Monday.
- The children will be taking home their reading diary and reading book on different days throughout the next two weeks. This is so the Early Years team can show each child individually how we use our books.
- Please keep their reading book and record in their bags. In school we aim to read with each child once a week alongside our weekly guided reading groups and daily phonics lessons.
- Top tips for sharing picture books!
 - Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough.
 - Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child.
 - Try to read with your child on most school days to develop good reading habits. 'Little and often' is best.
 - Talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end and their favourite part. This will help them to develop good comprehension skills.
 - Name objects in the pictures and listen to see what sound it starts with b-ball d-dog.

- When revisiting the book, encourage your child to add more detail, think about what the characters might be feeling or saying (even give the character a voice!) and use story words to join the events together such as “once upon a time” “first” “and then” “next” “suddenly” “later on” “the end.”
- Try to communicate regularly with positive comments in your child’s reading record book. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading.

Word books will be sent home once your child is confident in knowing words are read from left to right across the page, can link sounds to the letters s a t p i n m d and can blend sounds together to hear words. These skills are needed to start reading successfully.

Finally, if you are not part of the class WhatsApp group and would like to join, please let me know and I can pass on your name and contact details.

Thank you and have a lovely weekend

Mrs Haley Hay

EYFS Lead and Teacher / Phonics Lead

