

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have been using the independent learning board to choose our own activities because we are the 'Boss' of our own learning! 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.

To support our learning next week, we would love for you to send in family photos and baby photos of your child to be displayed. This can be a printed photo or you are welcome to email them across and we can print them off for you.

Next week we will begin our Phonics teaching and the children will begin bringing home their home learning. Our ask is that the children try to read four times a week and 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 been read 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 week next week. 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 t p i n m d and can blend sounds together to hear words. These skills are needed to start reading successfully

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Mrs Haley Hay

EYFS Lead and Teacher / Phonics Lead

