The Foundation Stage Learning Letter

This term's projects

Our exciting new topic to start this term is entitled 'Would you rather...?' We began the term with several activities to promote speaking skills, such as dressing up, 'feely bags' and a 'would you rather café'; prompting the children to describe what they could feel or taste. We have been using a variety of materials to make boats, parachutes and balloon-powered gliders - really encouraging critical thinking by questioning how things work.

We have invited scientist Ruth MacLaren and her team from Sciencedipity to lead a fun and exciting hands-on science session with each class on Monday 4th February.

Mathematics

Children will be extending their knowledge of numbers and the number system by recognising and ordering numbers to 20.

This term we are continuing to explore addition and subtraction strategies. Using quantities and objects children will learn to add by counting on. They will also learn how to subtract by counting back. It is important that they develop mathematical skills through practical problem solving. This will include finding ways to record our calculations using pictures and numbers.



Literacy

The book: 'Would you rather' by John Burningham was our inspiration for the topic and we hope it will continue to inspire the children to write 'would you rather...?' sentences. We have been learning to recite and retell the story and the children have been writing phrases from it or inventing their own 'would you rather...?' questions.

We will continue to develop our phonic knowledge, applying this to both reading and writing. Every week there is something new to write about and children are encouraged to use their phonic skills to write or mark make independently.



How you can help

At home:

Get them writing!

Encourage your child to write independently using their growing phonic skills. They could write shopping lists, cards, post-its, notes, messages, letters, little books and postcards – anything at all. It's all great practise.

Get them reading!

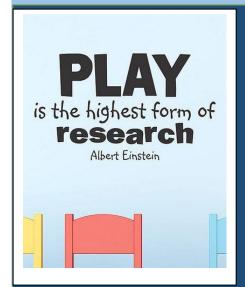
We ask you to read 3 times per week for 5 minutes at a time. Encourage your child to 'sound it out' and help them 'blend' the sounds together by repeating the sounds back to them. Practise really does make perfect!

Go to:

www.phonicsplay.co.uk where you will find a range of free interactive phonics games.

Look out for:

News about World Book Day (celebrated on Thursday 7th March).









Inspire ~ Discover

Succeed

Last term

Time flies when you're having fun! It seems a long time since the children first came to school and everything was strange and new. Now they are thriving and learning new things every day.

Highlights from the autumn term were:

- Receiving their first Guided Reading book and beginning to learn to read
- Making vegetable soup for shared snack
- Each class opening their own 'shoe shop' influenced by 'The Elves and the Shoemaker' story
- The inspirational performance of 'Table Mates' by Theatre Alibi and the hilarity of Circus Berzercus.

Meet our mindset friends

We are successful learners because, like our mindset friends, we keep on trying and we don't give up!





