



ST JAMES

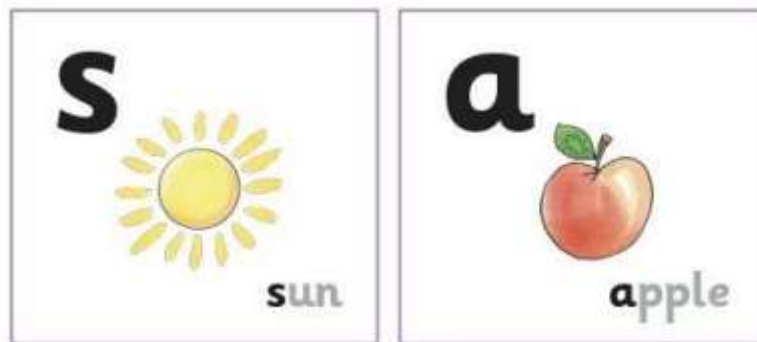
Preparatory School

Reception Newsletter: Autumn Term, Week 3

What have we explored this week?

We have started our Phonics lessons this week, learning two new sounds. We have used the Floppy's Phonics scheme to teach them. Each week, we complete a carpet session and worksheet activity for each sound.

Here are this week's sounds:



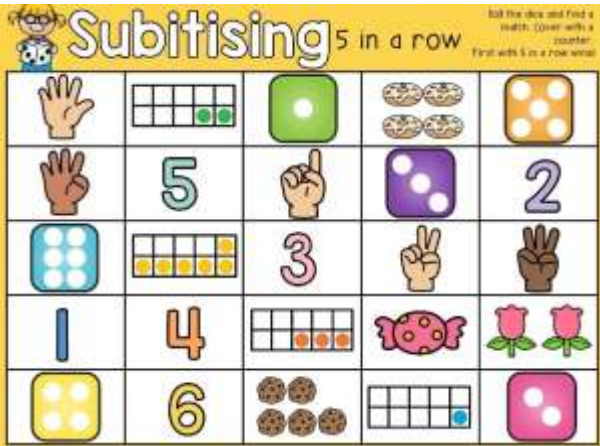
In English, we began our work on the story of the Gingerbread Man with a cooking session. We baked gingerbread which the children took home and we used the dough to make gingerbread men. During the week, the children then decorated the gingerbread men with icing and raisins. They have also enjoyed colour mixing paint to make foxes and have been playing with small gingerbread men characters and puppets to retell the story.





On Wednesday, we found lots of crumbs along the corridor and realised that the Gingerbread Man had run away! The children were so worried when they found he had gone missing that they made 'Wanted' posters around the school to look for him. They wrote 'stop him' by either overwriting, copying or sounding out.





Our Maths lessons this week have been focusing in depth on the numbers up to 3. We have been counting objects carefully using one-to-one correspondence.

We have also been learning to subitise amounts; being able to look at an amount and know how much is there. We will keep doing this throughout the year for bigger and bigger amounts.

Why we do this:

Subitising refers to the ability to look at a small group of objects and instantly know how many there are, without needing to count. The ability to subitise begins with very young children, helped by the fact that even babies have powerful visual memories. Studies have shown that it is possible to subitise groups of up to five objects instantly and when shown a regular pattern, such as a dice dot pattern, we can subitise to six.



The children had a lot of fun exploring the Forest School area on Monday. We chatted about the rules to ensure that they stay safe. The area is familiar to some children and new to others, but all of the children enjoyed the chance to investigate and discover new things. They went around to collect any natural items that they could find including helicopter seeds, sticks, leaves and bark. They will use these for crafts this year. We talked about things that might harm us as a few children were going too close to the stinging nettles. We showed them what they looked like as well as holly.



Here are some great photos of the children enjoying last week's apparatus lesson:



The children behaved beautifully during our visit to Mary Abbot's Church in Kensington on Tuesday morning. They walked there so nicely with the help of Year 6 and then they listened with great enthusiasm and respect. We are very proud of them!

Things to Remember

- **Languages spoken at home:** We have sent a slip home in your child's folder for you to fill in to let us know which languages your child is introduced to at home. This will help us to better understand your child and their unique circumstances. Please place it back in their folders.
- **Phonics workshop:** On Thursday 26th September at 8.30 - 8.50, we are holding a Phonics Workshop in the Reception classroom. It would be great if you could attend as we will be able to go through any questions you have about Phonics as well as demonstrate how we teach it.
- **Waterproofs:** Please could we ask that you send in a waterproof jacket and pair of waterproof trousers that your child can wear at Forest School weekly. They can remain in school on their peg along with their wellies. They will wear these over their uniform so that they can go out in all weathers.
- **Folders:** Please do start getting into the habit of checking your child's folder every day.
- **Baby Photo:** Another reminder to please send in some named baby photos of your child at certain stages in their life e.g. baby, 1, 2, 3, 4. We are going to make timelines with these. If needed, you could email it to office@stjamesprep.co.uk
- **A Precious Object:** To help us with our 'All about me' topic, we would like your child to bring in something that is precious to them. This could be a photograph, a soft toy, a keep sake etc. We will be sharing these during the week so do encourage your child to talk about it. Please do not send in anything valuable just in case it gets misplaced.