



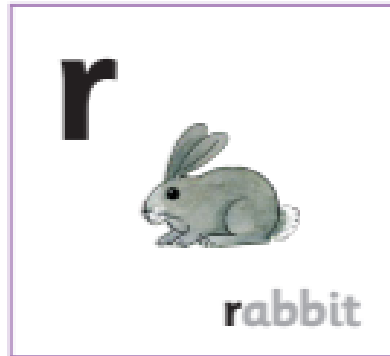
ST JAMES

Preparatory School

Reception Newsletter: Autumn Term, Week 10

What have we explored this week?

This week's Phonics sounds:



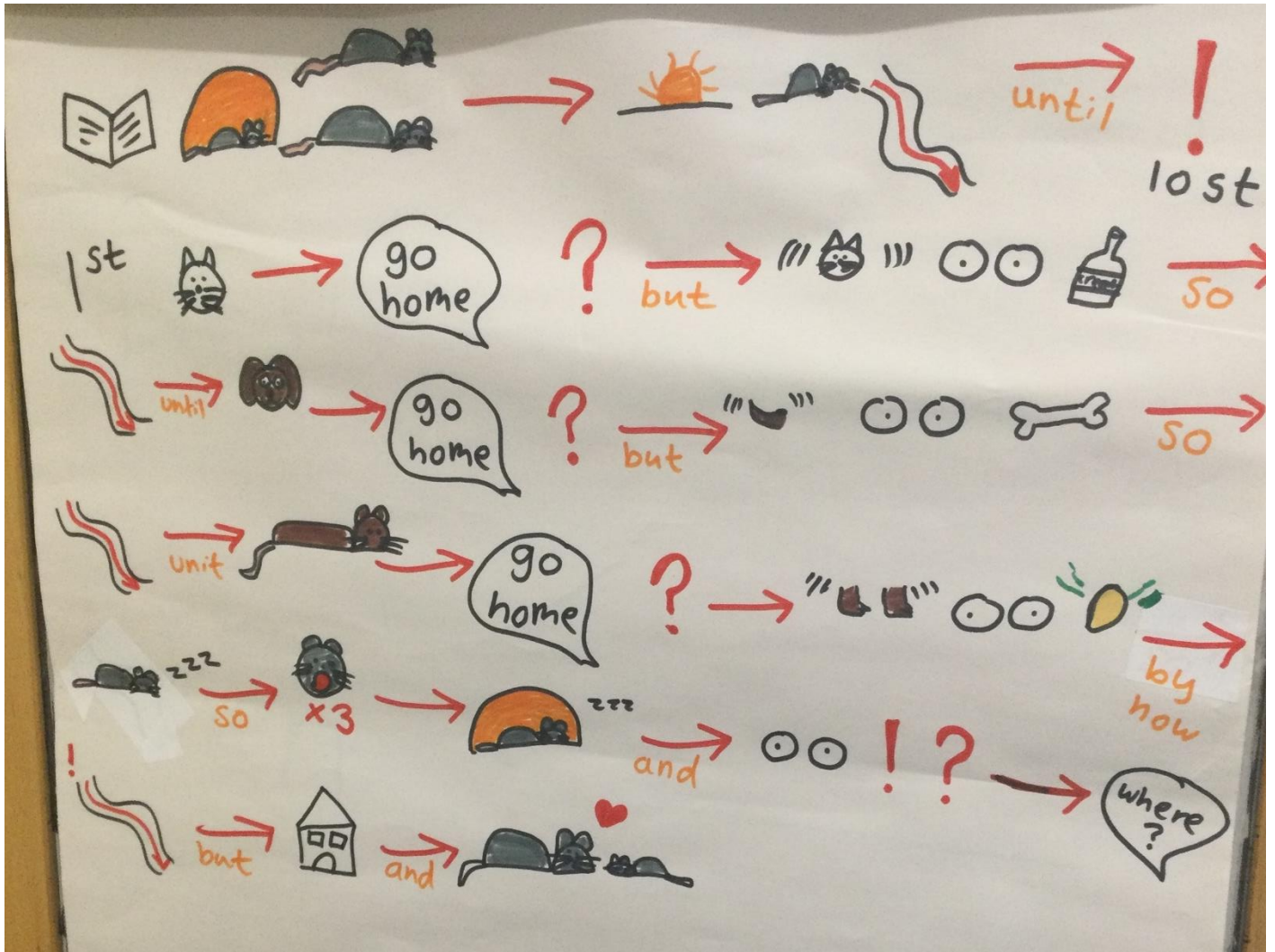
Please do use the Phonics keyrings and tricky word bookmarks to recap the purple sounds and Phase 2 tricky words.

In English, we started learning our story about Baby Mouse. The children are now becoming familiar with the story and we completed our story map. The children have been playing games linked to the story to help them engage with it, such as big role-play around the room, small world play, hot seating and artwork.



The repetitive nature of our Talk for Writing stories helps the children to learn the story well, as well as models different sentence patterns and story language. You may want to go through the story with your child to see what they know already.

They have been using this story map to help them learn the story. You may want to practise retelling the story at home:



See the next page for the full story.

The Baby Mouse
By Pie Corbett

Once upon a time there was a baby mouse who lived in a nice, warm hole with her Mummy and Daddy.

Early one morning, baby mouse went walking down the wibbly wobbly lane.

She walked and she walked and she walked until she was lost!

First, she met a cat.

"I want to go home!" said the baby mouse in a teeny tiny voice.

"Can you help me?"

But the cat shook his head and went off to look for some cream.

So, she walked and she walked and she walked down the wibbly wobbly lane, until she met a dog.

"I want to go home!" said the baby mouse in a teeny tiny voice.

"Can you help me?"

But the dog wagged his tail and went off to look for a bone.

So, she walked and she walked and she walked down the wibbly wobbly lane, until she met a little brown rat.

"I want to go home!" said the baby mouse in a teeny tiny voice.

"Can you help me?"

But the rat scuttled off to look for a rotten egg.

By now, the baby mouse was tired.

So, she yawned and she yawned and she yawned.

She was so tired that she curled up in a nice, warm hole and fell fast asleep.

And when she woke up, to her greatest surprise, guess who was there?

"Where have you been?" her Mummy asked.

"I got lost walking down the wibbly wobbly lane." said the baby mouse in a teeny tiny voice.

"But I seem to have found my own way home."

And her Mummy gave her the biggest cuddle that a baby mouse could ever imagine.



In Maths we did 'first, now and then' stories this week to introduce the concept of addition. A small amount of children played with some toys, then some more joined. With support, the children understood and used the language. We talked about number bonds to 5, then to 10 as we had 6 then 4 more children.



The children were able to tell their own stories using the words and number cards for help. We used fives frames to demonstrate the numbers. We looked at numbers and realised some of them were number bonds to 5 or 10. We also talked about how they kept getting 'more'.



At Forest School the children practised their gross motor skills. They used a swing rope carefully with Miss Daisy which was hung safely from a tree. They learnt to put the knot between their legs and pull on the rope with two hands to swing. They also showed great confidence climbing the tree with support from Miss Baillieux. They then made popcorn over a fire in a special container.





In our Topic time, the children have been looking at maps. They have found out in class that maps help us to show what a place looks like and there are lots of different types of maps. They were excited when they saw a treasure map and have been playing at pirates during Play and Explore in our pirate ship. They have been making their own maps to find the treasure and have been talking about directions. They even completed some pirate writing, practising CVC words.



Feel Good Friday last week saw the children having an extended buddy time with their Year 4 buddies. They thoroughly enjoyed this quality time to build relationships. They had a playtime outside, then ate lunch together and after that completed a joint craft activity. What a wonderful way to make us feel good on Feel Good Friday!



Things to Remember

- **Parent Phonics Workshop:** A reminder that you are invited to attend another Phonics Workshop on Thursday 28th November at 8.25-8.50am in the Reception classroom. Do let the office know if you would like to attend.
- The Christmas Market is on Sunday 1st December 12pm to 4pm.
- The next Performance Tea is on Wednesday 4th December. You can sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/e/KtR46pZ8ac>
- The Nativity performances for parents are on Thursday 5th December and Friday 6th December at 9am. Tickets can be booked here: <https://stjamesjunior.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

The children have a speaking line for the performance which it would be really helpful to practise at home:

“And while they were there, she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.”

The children are also learning the song ‘We Wanna Shout!’ which you will find at 0.47 seconds into this video, again if you would like to practise:

<https://youtu.be/fT6QiCblCOw>

- Book Look is on Monday 9th December from 8am until 8:45am.
- We are going on a trip to the theatre on Monday 9th December. The letter is attached and also on the portal. You can book your child’s ticket here: <https://stjamesjunior.schoolcloud.co.uk/>
- If you have not yet connected to your child’s ClassDojo account, please follow this link: <https://www.classdojo.com/ul/p/addKid?target=class&class=CDBDKV8>

As well as being a way of enabling quick communication between home and school, ClassDojo is used to award and tally house points, so you will be able to see when your child receives a house point and what it is for!

You do not need to sign up for the paid ‘Plus’ version of Class Dojo.

- The Christmas Carol Service is on Thursday 12th December at St Mary’s Kensington at 9:15am. There will be refreshments for parents in the Courtyard from 8:15am. Children to be in full school uniform, please.
- Thursday 12th December is also Christmas Lunch. Children are welcome to bring in Christmas jumpers and hats to wear after the Carol Service.
- Term ends at 11:30am on Friday 13th December.

- **Guided Reading:** We have started Guided Reading sessions with the children during the week in small groups, rather than reading one-to-one, as we are discussing the book, learning comprehension and decoding skills and having a lesson on the book. We feel that these sessions are more beneficial to teach areas of reading, whilst we also have the opportunity to hear every child read. Here are some of the skills we are looking out for during our sessions:



- **Arrival to school:** We have noticed that some of the Reception children have been coming in quite late this week. Please do try to arrive by 8.20am. We aim to complete some learning activities in the morning when the children arrive, so the earlier they come in the better.



ST JAMES
Preparatory School

Friday 22 November 2024

Dear Parents

We are organising a trip to The Lyric Theatre for the Reception classes on Monday 9th December. The children will be watching the theatre production of 'Raymond Brigg's Father Christmas'. This is a beautiful production which the children will thoroughly enjoy on the last week of the term before the Christmas holidays.

The cost of the trip is £14.00 per child which should be paid for on schoolcloud [SchoolCloud - St James Preparatory School](#).

We will leave school straight after lunch as the show is at 13:00 and they will return to school by 15:00. We will be travelling by public bus and walking, as the theatre is conveniently located in Hammersmith.

Best wishes
Miss Baillieux

Headmistress
Mrs Hilary Wyatt
NPQH, MA, PGCE
ISA | IAPS

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Registered Office:
Earsby Street, London W14 8SH.
Registered in England 1222329.
Registered Charity No. 270156