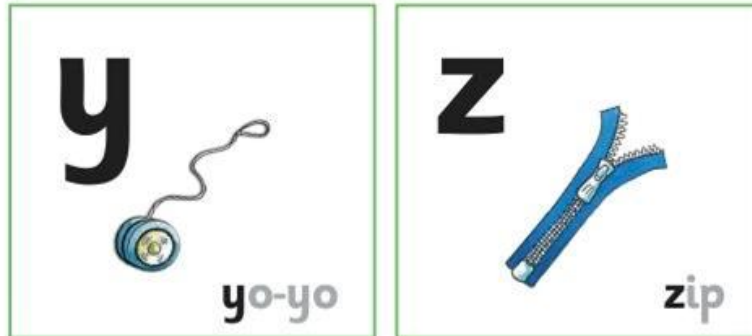




Reception Newsletter: Spring Term, Week 4

What have we explored this week?

This week's Phonics sounds:



Please do use the Phonics keyrings to recap the purple sounds and begin to learn the green sounds. Also use tricky word bookmarks to recap Phase 2 and begin to learn Phase 3 tricky words. Have a go at reading the sentences from this week:

Yes, Yasmin, you can visit Vic.

/y/ y

The big yak's yells will not stop!

Zap is a little zigzag bug.

/z/ z

Biff ran up to Zigzag and Zip, the zebras.

In English, we continued to learn the story of 'The Sleepy Bumblebee'. We role-played the characters and asked them questions. Here are some of the children's wonderful questions:

Who woke you up?

Why were you barking?

Why are you singing?

Why do you quack?

Why are you sleeping?

Why were you climbing?

How are you feeling?

Were you playing?

Why do you want to sing?

Why were you splashing?

Why were you munching?

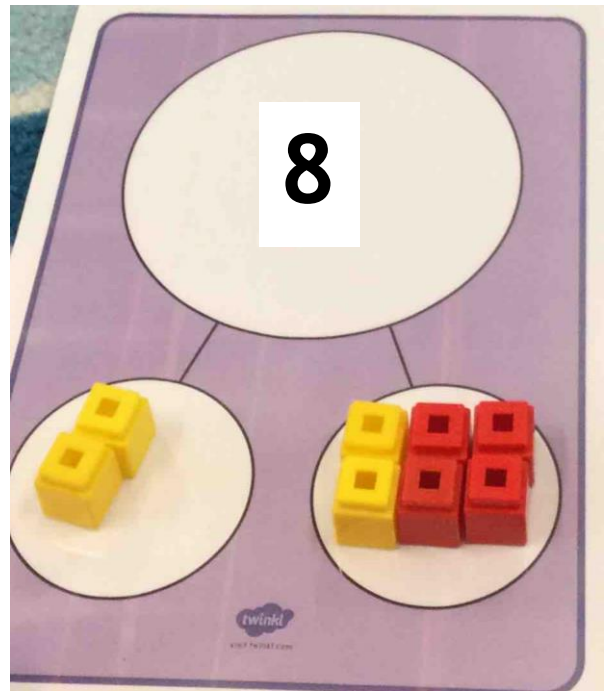
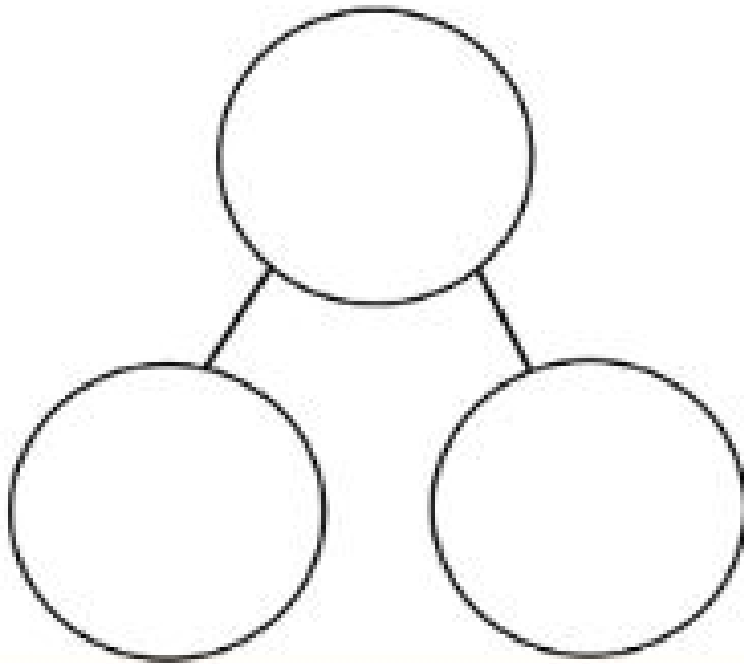


We started delving into the text to fully understand the characters in the story. We discussed repeated language and how effective this can be in expressing an element of the story. For example, 'Oh no. I can't stand this!' We used our imagination to predict why the dogs are barking, the children are singing, and the ducks are quacking. We used the sentence frame below to help us write full sentences. We are using **green** at the start of a sentence and **red** at the end to highlight capital letters and full stops and remind us to use them.

In Maths, we looked at parts and making them into a whole and we tried to subitise amounts. We used seeds to see how many we had in each pot, then how many in total. We used part-whole models to help us, and we looked at larger numbers with counters and cubes practically. We turned the part-whole model around and noticed that it was still okay to use when it was sideways.



Here is what a part-whole model looks like and here is an example of 8 being split into parts:



The children also know that eight can be split into the following parts:

$$\begin{array}{ll} 8 + 0 = 8 & 0 + 8 = 8 \\ 7 + 1 = 8 & 1 + 7 = 8 \\ 6 + 2 = 8 & 2 + 6 = 8 \\ 5 + 3 = 8 & 3 + 5 = 8 \\ 4 + 4 = 8 & 4 + 4 = 8 \end{array}$$

We watched Number Blocks, some Number Pairs and some Number Bonds videos to help us learn number bonds through songs and to memorise the parts and whole easily. We are focusing on numbers to 10, especially those past 5. The children must know the number bonds up to 10 by the end of Reception. Here are the videos if you would like to practise them at home:

[Number blocks 'The Whole of Me'](#)

[Number pairs to 1](#)

[Number bonds to 1](#)

[Number pairs to 2](#)

[Number bonds to 2](#)

[Number pairs to 3](#)

[Number bonds to 3](#)

[Number pairs to 4](#)

[Number bonds to 4](#)

[Number pairs to 5](#)

[Number bonds to 5](#)

[Number pairs to 6](#)

[Number bonds to 6](#)

[Number pairs to 7](#)

[Number bonds to 7](#)

[Number pairs to 8](#)

[Number bonds to 8](#)

[Number pairs to 9](#)

[Number bonds to 9](#)

[Number pairs to 10](#)

[Number bonds to 10](#)

We learnt all about China during our Topic work. We looked at the world map and located China. We talked about how far away this was from the UK and how it would take about 15 hours on a plane. We learnt facts about China. Then we talked about life at school and compared it to life here. There were some similarities but a lot of differences. Here is the video about school in China if you would like to compare it at home:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0113kgs>



My School Your School

Complete the table to show the comparisons between a school in Beijing and your own school.

Beijing (China)	My School
Children go to school for 5 ½ days a week.	
Children start school when they are 3 ½ years old.	
Lessons in school last 45 minutes.	
Children all learn Chinese, maths, PE, music, drawing, nature, history and geography.	
Children have an exercise lesson at break time.	

Copyright © Year 3 Literacy Co. © D'Nevo! My School Your School! Lesson 4

Our Comparisons:

We compared our school to the Chinese school and noticed that they went to school on a Saturday!

We thought they start school at a similar age to us.

Our lessons are quite similar in length.

We have similar lessons, although we learn English and Sanskrit rather than Chinese.

We are allowed to play at break time where the children in China have to do PE.

The class did incredibly well during our Chinese New Year Assembly. They performed it so confidently to the entire school. They learnt their lines, sang the songs and did actions well. They followed directions to make sure they were in time, especially during our practices in class. They have learnt so much about Chinese New Year and had a great time celebrating it!



Things to Remember

- Save the Date: On the afternoon of Friday 14th of February the school will be holding Grandparents and Special Friends Afternoon. Details will follow soon but, in the meantime, please save the date!
- Our *Spring Bulb Competition* has launched! Children are encouraged to grow a bulb (or 2) at home and bring them in to school on Wednesday, 12 March when the first round of judging will take place. There are plenty of house-points and 'Green Thumb' certificates to be won - happy growing and good luck!
- Please do ensure that your child is wearing the correct school uniform, including school shoes. We have a few children wearing boots or snowshoes. As explained on our website, the children are expected to be smart and tidy at all times and to be in the correct school uniform (exceptions include Charity Events).

Girls' and boys' hair, if longer than collar length, needs to be tied back with white or blue accessories. Jewellery, other than ear studs, is not allowed. Some children are wearing coloured hair clips or fancy hairbands.

- Just a reminder to please dress your child in appropriate clothing for the weather. They currently need to be wearing warm and waterproof raincoats in navy, blue or black.
- Please be reminded that the school day officially starts at 8.20 so if you arrive anytime after this, you will be marked as late. Do make sure your child arrives promptly to school. We are still finding lots of children are late.