



ST JAMES

Preparatory School

Reception Newsletter: Spring Term, Week 7

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:

/th/ th

Get a cloth that is thick, not thin.

I must get that thick cloth to mop up
this froth.

/ng/ -ng

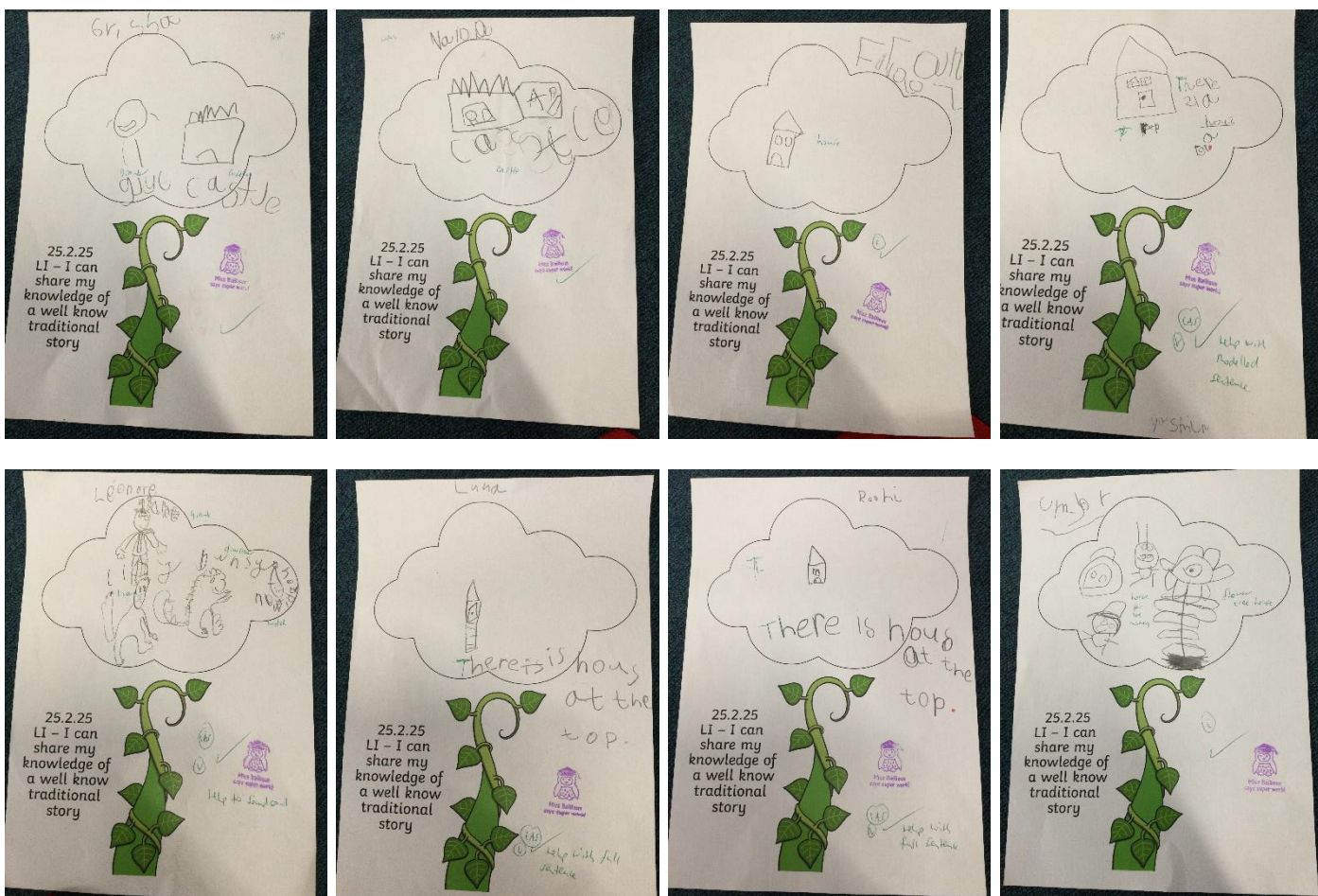
The king sings and the bells go ding-dong.

Bring me a ring and I will sing to the king.

In English, we introduced our story of Jack and the Beanstalk by going into the playroom and noticing a giant beanstalk that had grown in the room, all the way up to the sky! We used leaves the children had made during their Play and Explore time to make the beanstalk, which made it feel very magical.



The children were excited to see the beanstalk and talk about what might be in the clouds. They used their prior knowledge of the story to predict that there would be a 'castle' or a 'giant'. We had some other interesting ideas, too. Back in the classroom, the children drew what they thought would be in the clouds and tried to write about it.



We have enjoyed learning the story of Jack and the Beanstalk this week. Here is the story and some example story maps:

Once upon a time there lived a poor widow who had a son called Jack.

One day, she told Jack to sell their cow, Milky-white, at the market. So Jack walked and he walked and he walked until he met a little old man.

'If you sell me your cow, I'll give you not one, not two but three magic beans,' said the old man. So, Jack sold the cow. When he got back home, his mother was furious and she threw those beans right out of the window.

Early next morning, Jack woke up to find a giant beanstalk outside his window, higher than the clouds. So, he climbed and he climbed and he climbed until at last he reached the sky. There he found a road and at the end of the road was a giant's castle.

Just then, along came the giant with three bags of gold, thumping, thumping, thumping.

'What's that I smell?' he roared. 'Fee-fi-fo-fum, you better watch out, here I come'

Soon, the giant fell asleep. So, quick as a flash, Jack grabbed the gold and climbed down the beanstalk. Down, down, down he climbed.

Suddenly, the giant woke up and chased him down, down, down the beanstalk. As soon as Jack reached the bottom, he called out, "Mother, help!" So, Jack's mother took an axe and chopped down the beanstalk. Luckily, the giant fell and crashed to the ground with a thump and a bump and nobody ever saw him again.

Finally, Jack and his mother lived happily ever after.



In Maths, we talked about number bonds to 10. We sang '10 green bottles' and talked about the number bonds that add together to make 10. We wrote them down in pairs, with number sentences, to see how the numbers swap over. We used large green bottles to help demonstrate the song.

We used the bottles again and realised how many were not on the wall using our knowledge of number bonds/pairs. We used counters on 10s frames to demonstrate the answers. We talked a lot about subitising the amounts. The children then made their own number bond diagrams to show the numbers that add together to make 10.

If you would like to practise number bonds at home, some Number Blocks episodes are useful:

[Numberblocks - Series 2: Blast Off - BBC iPlayer](#)

[Numberblocks - Series 3: Ten Again - BBC iPlayer](#)



At Forest School, the children explored playing in the mud. They painted with it, pretended to be little piggies jumping and had a go at skating. After, they enjoyed cooking waffles on the large fire, with everyone having a go at turning them over safely. They were excited to see the signs of spring and noticed blossom, snowdrops, mushrooms, buds and catkins all appearing. They enjoyed the warmer weather even though it was wet.



In Topic, Miss Baillieux talked about how she is Welsh and about how people in Wales celebrate St David's Day. She showed pictures of her family and the children loved seeing photos of her celebrating St David's Day as an adult. Miss Baillieux even taught them some Welsh. They can say 'Dydd Gwyl Dewi hapus' which means 'Happy St David's Day' as well as learning how to say good morning, good afternoon, hello and the numbers to 5. They then watched a clip about children celebrating and learnt about the food, language and other customs.

Here are some videos if you would like to find out more about the festival:

[CBeebies - Preparing For St David's Day - Let's Celebrate](#)

[CBeebies: Celebrating St David's Day - Let's Celebrate - YouTube](#)



They have taken part in activities in the playroom to celebrate the festival, including drawing daffodils, painting daffodils and making Welsh flags.



Things to Remember

- Just a reminder that Reception will be visiting Kew Gardens on Monday 10th March. Please wear their gym kit on that day to keep them comfortable. There will be a lot of walking! They will need a small backpack to put their school made packed lunch inside as well as a water bottle. You will not need to bring their folders.
- There will be a Book Look on Monday 3rd March 8am to 8:45am. We look forward to welcoming you into our classroom and sharing our work with you.
- The children have brought home scripts for the upcoming Shakespeare Festival. We have been looking at the text and practising during Drama lessons - what a wonderful class of confident, talented children! Each child has been given lines to be learnt by heart over the next coming weeks for their homework. Please support the children in learning their lines in response to the cue line before it.

We are practising:

- Speaking with a “clear voice” (not mumbled - slow is better)
- Speaking out - finding their “big voice”
- Saying their lines with an “acting voice” - lots of expression to keep the attention of the audience. So aim for a “CLEAR, BIG, ACTING VOICE”!

The performance to Parents is on Wednesday 12th March at 10.40am.

- We are really looking forward to World Book on Thursday 6th March. Please do remember your costumes and book that matches.
- Reception PTIs will be held on Friday 21st March. Please follow this link to book your slot: <https://stjamesjunior.schoolcloud.co.uk/>
- We have noticed a big improvement in the children’s reading, helped by regular reading at home. Thank you very much for supporting the children to develop this vital skill. Here are some links to online books if you would like to read virtually. Online books:
<https://storylineonline.net/>
<https://www.getepic.com/sign-in> - log in information:
<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>
- Please could we have a set of spare clothes for each child to keep on their peg encase we need to change them, for example after a rainy playtime or if anyone has an accident.