



ST JAMES

Preparatory School

Reception Newsletter: Summer Term, Week 3

What have we explored this week?

This week and last week's Phonics sounds:



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

/ai/ ai

The maid was paid to fix the main sail.

The snail left a trail from the pail to the drain again.

/ee/ ee -y

The bus had funny wheels and silly children in the back.

The wonky tree is thin and green.

/igh/ -igh -y

“Why are we up this high?” I sigh.

Wilma can see a moth in the night sky.

We have begun to write full sentences in our Phonics lessons on whiteboards. Here are some photos of the children trying hard to write sentences independently:



Our story for English this half term is Farmer Duck. As a way to introduce the story, the children pretended to be the duck, doing all the work around the farm and the house, whilst Miss Baillieux pretended to be the lazy Farmer. They acted out the story from the start to the end and did all the work. The poor ducks said "quack" when the farmer asked them "how goes the work?" They had to sweep the floor, prepare the mud for planting, do the washing up, collect the apples and fill up buckets of water. The really related to the poor duck in the story, who had to do all of these jobs and more!



During this week, we started drawing the story map of Farmer Duck as a class and we completed some fun activities linked to the story. We asked the duck questions from the story:

Why did you say quack in a sad way?
 Why are you tired?
 Why are you weepy?
 Why do you need to do work?
 Why was the farmer shouting at you?
 Did you get scared when the farmer shout at you?

Because I don't want to do it.
 Because I've been working.
 Because I was sad.
 Because the farmer tells me to.
 Because he is angry.
 Yes.



We also had fun painting the characters from the story using water colours.



In Maths, we played games to practise counting forwards and backwards, making sure to count the jumps. The children used a variety of board mats including the classic snakes and ladders. We selected cards that said 'go forwards' or 'go back' to practise counting further. We played in small groups and as a whole class.

There are so many benefits from this play including taking turns, counting accurately, using dice, reading card instructions, reading the numbers and playing for fun. Please use this long weekend to play a board game at home to practise these skills.



At Forest School, the children really enjoyed swinging from a swing and exploring a new 'cave' that had appeared in the bushes, as leaves have now grown. We have a new pathway that has been created using wood chippings and logs; the area looks particularly beautiful at the moment. We enjoyed searching for bugs, climbing trees and having running races.



In Topic, we have been talking about life cycles the past two weeks. We have been lucky enough to have live caterpillars which we will watch turn into butterflies. They have already grown so much over the weekend. The children told me more about the caterpillar life cycle:



Suray: "the caterpillars are growing. They will grow into butterflies."

Kabeer: "they are eating".

Luna "the caterpillars are a bit big."

Roy: "I think when they go into the cocoon they will turn into a butterfly."

Lyna: "they grow from eggs."

Memo: "this one is medium size, this one is a bit big."

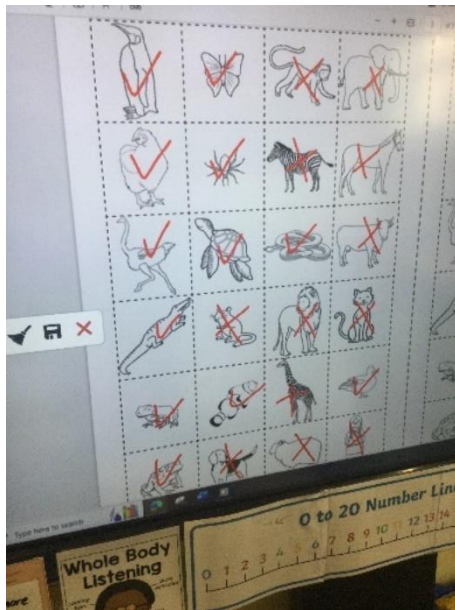
Roohi: "the caterpillars eat and eat until they grow big."

Umar: "then they turn into butterfly."

Léonore: "the caterpillars, they grow from eggs, they turn into caterpillars, they eat and eat, turn into butterflies, cocoon first."

Yasmin: "cocoon is called a chrysalis, first they start as eggs then they turn to a caterpillar, eat and eat, go in chrysalis and turn a butterfly."

The children also learnt about the life cycle of a chick this week and how they come out of an egg. We looked at eggs and then drew our own in the play and explore room. We talked about animals that lay eggs and sorted them. The children were able to talk about 'birds', 'insects' and 'reptiles' and knew that 'mammals' do not lay eggs. At story time, we read a non-fiction book all about chicks and eggs.





We are delighted to have introduced the Motor Movers programme into our school. It is a range of specific exercises designed to further assist children develop the balance, fine and gross motor movements they need for successful learning.

The movements are based on the stages of child development and all our pupils in Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2 now do the 10 minute daily sessions with their class teachers who have been recently inducted. This week's sessions have gone really well.

Parents have an important job in supporting the physical development of their children - here are some starter ideas:

Increase play and physical activity and reduce screen time.

Ask your child about his or her Motor Movers exercises - try them out as a family.

Look for opportunities to develop gross and fine motor skills and independence.

Provide opportunities to play outside whatever the weather. Think about shade when it is sunny and wellingtons if it is wet!

Please ask your child's class teacher if you wish to know more. You can find more detailed information for parents on class dojo and the parent portal on the website.

Things to Remember

- Welcome back to the Summer Term - we have a busy one coming up so please do keep an eye out for any messages via email/Class Dojo.
- Please do read the trip letter which was emailed out last week and attached to Class Dojo. We will be going to the London Transport Museum on Monday 19th May.
- There will be a Reception parents Math Workshop on Wednesday 7th May at 08:30 run by Miss Baillieux and Ms Foster - please book a place on School Cloud.
- As it warms up in the playground the children remove their jumpers and blazers, which can result in lost property. If it is named it will often make its way back to class. Please remind your child that they are responsible for their uniform.
- Please do bring in a hat for the children to wear in the hot weather, and apply suncream before they arrive at school.
- Please also note that children are to wear their summer uniform. As a school, we are being stricter with uniform and are ensuring children are always looking smart. Girls must wear white socks/tights.
- There is no school on Monday 5th May as it is a Bank Holiday.