



ST JAMES

Preparatory School

Reception Newsletter: Summer Term, Week 7

What have we explored this week?

This week's Phonics sounds:



Please do use the Phonics keyrings to recap all of the taught sounds. Also use tricky word bookmarks to learn Phase 3 tricky words and begin to learn Phase 4.

Have a go at reading the sentences from this week:

/ou/ ow

The cow and the owl are down by the big oak tree.

The clown bows to a brown owl.

/oi/ oi

Join in and dig the soil with us.

Lift up this foil to look at the little coin!

In English the children wrote their entire story about Farmer Duck. We were so impressed with how all of the children wrote full sentences! In the photos, they wrote the first sentence, changing the animal: *Once upon a time there was a duck who lived with an old farmer.*

Red group FTOV
02 JUN 2025 LI - I can write the beginning of my story
Once upon a time there was a duck who lived with an old farmer.
Stormer

Red group N. Kola
02 JUN 2025 LI - I can write the beginning of my story
Once upon a time there was a horse who lived with an old farmer.

Yellow group Roy
02 JUN 2025 LI - I can write the beginning of my story
Once upon a time there was a cat who lived with an old farmer.
Cafant
With an old farmer

02 JUN 2025 LI - I can write the beginning of my story
Once upon a time there was a duck who lived with an old farmer.

Green group Lyra
02 JUN 2025 LI - I can write the beginning of my story
once upon a time there was who lived
There was a sheep who lived with an old farmer.

Green group Lara
02 JUN 2025 LI - I can write the beginning of my story
once upon a time there was who lived
once upon a time there was a sheep who lived with an old farmer.
Nith

Green group Y. S. M. N.
02 JUN 2025 LI - I can write the beginning of my story
once upon a time there was who lived
once upon a time there was a sheep who lived with an old farmer.

Green group P. O. K. V.
02 JUN 2025 LI - I can write the beginning of my story
once upon a time there was who lived
once upon a time there was a pig who lived with an old farmer.

Red group Kaber
02 JUN 2025 LI - I can write the beginning of my story
Once upon a time there was a sheep who lived with an old farmer.

Yellow group K. E. N. O. R. E.
02 JUN 2025 LI - I can write the beginning of my story
Once upon a time there was a sheep who lived with an old farmer.
once upon a time there was a sheep who lived with an old farmer.

Green group Gigi
02 JUN 2025 LI - I can write the beginning of my story
once upon a time there was who lived
once upon a time there was a horse who lived with an old farmer.

Green group Billie
02 JUN 2025 LI - I can write the beginning of my story
once upon a time there was who lived
once upon a time there was a sheep who lived with an old farmer.

Yellow group Y. E. N. I. D.
02 JUN 2025 LI - I can write the beginning of my story
Once upon a time there was a sheep who lived with an old farmer.
there was a sheep who lived with an old farmer.

Red group Y. I. P. P. Y.
02 JUN 2025 LI - I can write the beginning of my story
Once upon a time there was a sheep who lived with an old farmer.

Red group H. E. M. B.
02 JUN 2025 LI - I can write the build-up of my story
Every day, the elegant sheep did all the work.

In Maths we have been learning about sharing and halving, knowing that this means sharing between two. The children worked together to share strawberries with the class toys. They made sure they had the same. Then we did the activity with tens frames and counters to share.



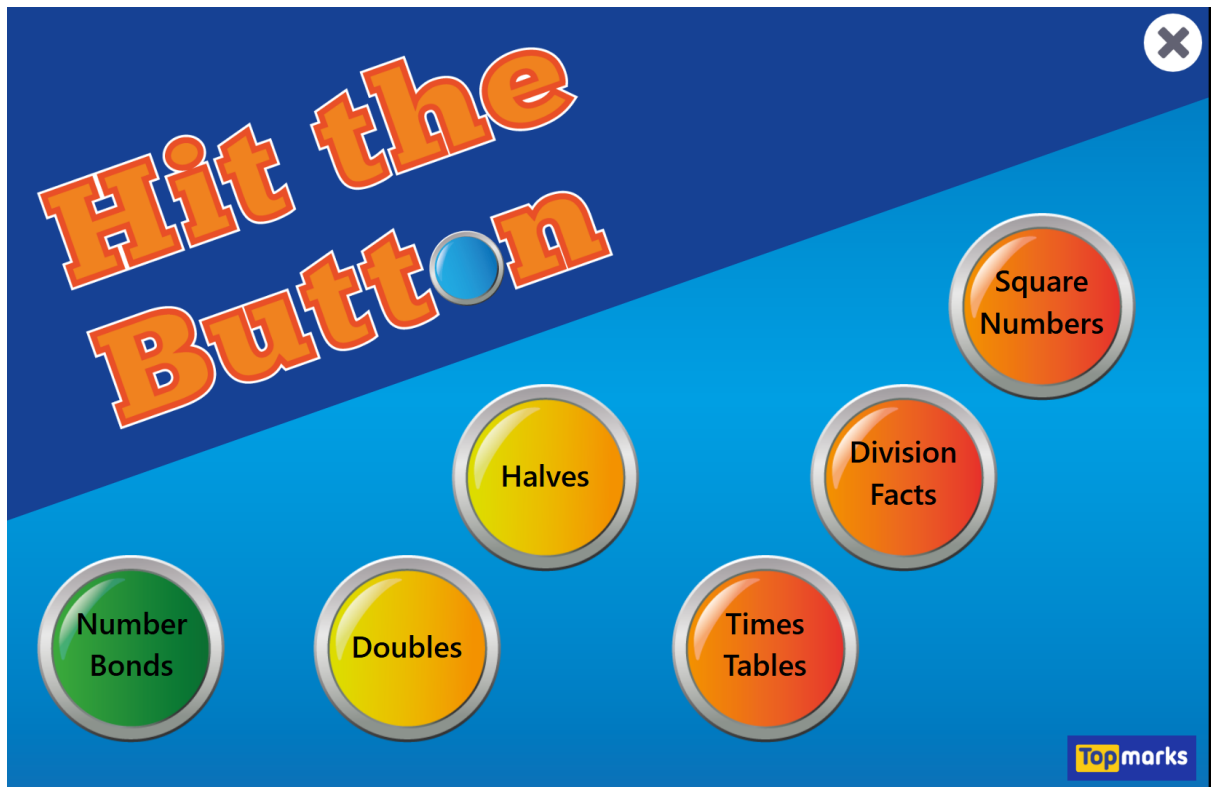
Then, we have used part-whole models to help us share, making sure that we put the same amount in each part so that it was fair. The children realised that not all numbers can be shared equally. We started to talk about odd and even numbers to help us and will look at this in more detail next week.



The children played this game which helped them to know that sharing must have the same on both sides and be a 'Fair Share': <https://pbskids.org/curiousgeorge/busyday/dogs/>



We have also recapped doubles by all playing Hit the Button, this time looking at 'Doubles': <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>



They loved playing it and have started to understand the patterns. This is helping them with their halving during this week.



We talked about Italy during our Topic lesson this week, in preparation for International Week next week. We talked about it being in Europe and finding it on the map. We looked at the mountains and discussed volcanoes. We learnt facts about Italy and looked at the landscape and climate, as well as landmarks and food. The children enjoyed painting the Italian flag during their Play and Explore as well as playing with pasta and making their own pizzas by sharing the toppings (linked to Maths). We read some non-fiction books about Italy, too.

You can read them here if you have signed up to a free Epic account, using the class code [yzh6322](https://www.getepic.com/app/read/57474):

<https://www.getepic.com/app/read/57474>

<https://www.getepic.com/app/read/36002>





Before half term, we had a fantastic time on our trip to the farm. The children loved seeing all the animals and learning more about them. We also went on a fun hunt around the farm to discover what kinds of food they are growing. The children used the iPads to take photos of what they found, and it was a great way to combine learning with technology and outdoor exploration.



We loved seeing so many of you at the Book Look on Wednesday, as well as having our PTI meetings. Thank you for making such an effort to join in with what is happening at school. Here are some photos of the Book Look:



EYFS Early Learning Goals

At Home Activities



By the end of Reception, the children will be assessed against the Early Learning Goals (ELGs).

Each week, we will be sending you an area of the EYFS curriculum with activities that you can do to help your child achieve the ELGs. This week we are looking at Physical Development:

Area of Learning	Aspect	Early Learning Goals
Physical Development (PD)	Gross Motor Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate space and obstacles safely, with consideration for themselves and others. • Demonstrate strength, balance and coordination when playing. • Move energetically, such as running, jumping, dancing, hopping, skipping and climbing.
	Fine Motor Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases. • Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paintbrushes and cutlery. • Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing.

Physical Development

- Create a poster together on a topic that interests your child. Check to see if your child is holding their pencil in the right way when drawing pictures and writing words and sentences. For the majority of children, they should be holding their pencil with a three-fingered tripod grip to make writing easier and more comfortable.
- Practise using child-safe scissors to cut out images from magazines and catalogues, or cut out shapes drawn on pieces of paper. Show your child how to hold scissors in one hand correctly with their thumb in a position at the top, using their other hand to guide the paper.
- During mealtimes, encourage your child to cut up their own food using child-safe knives and forks. Start with soft food before moving to food that is slightly tougher. Alternatively, provide cutlery to practise cutting playdough.
- Draw some family portraits or pet pictures. Prompt your child to look at the details they need to add to their pictures and make sure they are taking care to be as accurate with their pencil as they can.
- As a family, try some different physical activities, such as dancing, playing football, going for walks, riding a bike or going swimming. This will help to develop coordination, strength and balance.
- Create your own obstacle course around the home or garden. Have things to balance on, jump over, run around and throw at a target, such as a ball of socks into a bucket.

Things to Remember

- This term, St James fundraising efforts will be focused on supporting Masibambane College: [Masibambane College & Community Center.docx](#)
We hope to raise enough funds to purchase a Jojo water tank for this school in South-Africa.

On **Monday 16th June** the Early Years children, both Nursery and Reception, will take part in a sponsored walk. The children will walk, as a group, five times round the Marcus Garvey park. They will finish with a celebratory snack time altogether. On **Monday 9th June** we will send home a sponsorship form. Please help your child to get lots of sponsors, either sponsoring an amount per circuit of the park or a total amount for participation. Once the event is complete please collect the money and bring it in with the completed sponsorship form and put it in your child's folder by **Friday 20th June**. You can return it before this date. Thank you for your support.

- International Week - 9th - 13th June:

St James will be celebrating our diverse community next week as each class learns about a country during International Week. Our school has children, parents and staff from all over the world and we want to share our cultures, languages, history and stories with each other!

Each class has chosen a country to learn about and will be completing activities connected to that country in their History and Geography time. They are also challenged to decorate their reading corners in a way linked to their chosen country.

On Friday 13th June, the school are invited to dress in non-uniform in a way connected to a country of their choice - it could be national dress, a sports kit or the colours of a flag - they can decide!

We hope it is a wonderful international celebration!

Our class is learning about **Italy**

- In preparation for our Prize Day this year, we are learning a poem in Reception. It would be great if you could please practise the poem at home. Here is the poem:

All the Year Round by Sara Coleridge



January brings the snow,
makes our feet and fingers glow.

February brings the rain,
Thaws the frozen lake again.

March brings breezes loud and shrill,
stirs the dancing daffodil.

April brings the primrose sweet,
Scatters daises at our feet

May brings flocks of pretty lambs,
Skipping by their fleecy damns.

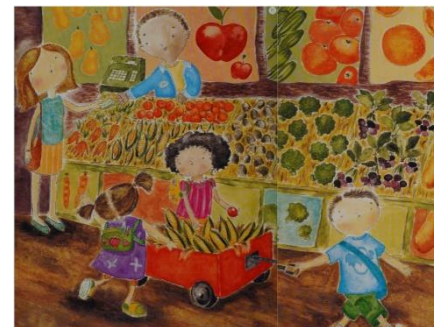
June brings tulips, lilies, roses,
Fills the children's hand with posies.



Hot July brings cooling showers,
Apricots and gillyflowers.

August brings the sheaves of corn,
Then the harvest home is borne.

Warm September brings the fruit,
Sportsmen then begin to shoot.



Fresh October brings the pheasants,
Then to gather nuts is pleasant.

Dull November brings the blast,
Then the leaves are whirling fast.

Chill December brings the sleet,
Blazing fire, and Christmas treat.