

## This week in Reception



Our focus this week was all about birds, due to the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch. The children shared their knowledge of birds, made puppets and pictures of birds, crafted binoculars and honed their observational skills outside by doing a bird tally chart.

Some of the children had an exciting demonstration from Tim the builder about how to safely use tools and we expect that all classes will be having a go at using the hammers and nails next week.

## Phonics:

This week Reception learnt the **air** trigraph and the **er** digraph. Although the children already know the **ur** digraph, we talked about the fact that the **er** spelling usually appears at the end of words (like in 'digger' and 'ladder', for example).

We also practised using the 'chunking' technique to read longer words (hiding part of it and sounding both halves out separately before blending together). The children are beginning to spot double letters within words such as tt, gg, bb.



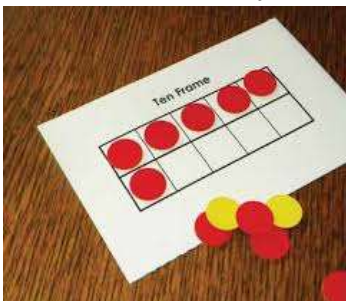
air



er

## Number:

This week we learnt all about the different ways to represent '5 and a bit' (i.e. 6, 7, 8). The children began by looking at the way that 5 dots are arranged on a die frame and then explored other ways to represent and organise 5 (using fingers, objects, pictures etc.). We then used two dice to investigate numbers beyond 5 and think about how these could be recorded in a variety of ways (such as on a tens frame, part-part-whole or on a tally chart).



### **Next week:**

Next week we will be focusing on Children's Mental Health Week, which will provide us with a fantastic chance to continue to learn and talk about the different emotions we experience and how to manage these. We will do some mindfulness activities, practise strategies to calm ourselves down and make some crafts to assist with this. If any parents/carers feel particularly passionate about this, [please let us know](#). We would love to have some parent interaction to help with this!

### **Reading:**

Reception have been excited to get back into their reading groups. As always, please ensure that **book bags are returned each Monday with both the Little Wandle phonics book and the reading for pleasure book inside.** We are still missing a number of our new Little Wandle phonics books.

### **Request for spare clothes:**

We are still incredibly low on spare clothing in Reception. If your child has borrowed any of our spare clothing, we would be grateful if you could ensure that these items are returned to us ASAP. Likewise, if you have any old clothes that you are considering getting rid of (ages 4-6 years), we would be very thankful for any donations. **We are especially short of trousers, as none have been returned to us.**

### **Request for scrap wood:**

We feel that the Reception children are now ready to learn how to safely use hammers and nails, with adult supervision. This is something we have done in previous years and it is great way to develop better hand-eye coordination and greater self-confidence. **With this in mind, we would welcome any donations of small pieces of scrap wood (free of nails) for the children to use.**

The Reception Team

