

This week in Reception

This week in Reception we celebrated International Week, where the children learnt about different cultures from around the world. They were fascinated by the diverse customs, languages, and traditions of the various countries we explored. It was brilliant to celebrate the children's heritage and knowledge of other countries. We are so grateful to the parent volunteers who kindly came in to teach the children something about their home countries. This had a huge impact on the children's learning and we suspect they will remember it for a long time. As part of the week's activities, the children designed and made their own flags using wood, fabric, hammers and nails. It was a great opportunity for them to express their creativity and develop their fine motor skills. They also made masks for a special Brazilian carnival in the outdoor area with music and dancing. As well as this, the children explored different countries using Google Earth. They were captivated by the different landscapes and landmarks that were unique to each country. We also learnt about the different foods, clothing, and music of our focus country, Brazil.

Phonics:

In phonics this week, we practised longer words that ended in s, and es (fishes, wishes) and reviewed the tricky words they, all, by, my, are, sure, and pure. The children continue to make great progress in their phonics and we hope you are seeing the same at home.

Number:

This week in maths we were focusing on sorting and classifying. The children explored this by sorting objects into a variety of groups based on different characteristics such as shape, colour and size. This helped them to develop their problem-solving skills and practise mathematical oracy (speaking their thoughts and understanding). They also began to learn about odd and even numbers and reviewed their knowledge of doubles.

Garden Party News

The boxes for donations are in place at the gates and your class raffle boxes will be at your class doors during the first week of the Summer Term.

Instead of a paper sign up volunteer list, we are going technical. Below is a link for you to volunteer your time on the 13th May;

<https://volunteersignup.org/XH377>

Thank you

Performances

Emily carefully considered the possibility of performing to parents this week, but felt strongly that the amount and intensity of rehearsals needed, given that children had missed some lessons, would be detrimental to their enjoyment of music and detract from the learning that they are currently engaged in.

Many other in- class experiences were planned for the week to ensure an immersion into International Day and during the summer term, each Reception Class plans to invite parents to a short performance, before they get too tired and fidgety in the last week, which would have been an issue with this term's performances.

Home Learning Ideas:

During the half-term break, you may wish to do some of the following activities with your child to help to embed/extend their learning and keep them busy:

- Keep reading with your child as often as possible! This can be the phonics book or simply reading their favourite story books to them (to foster a love of stories and books!)
- Practise writing with fun exercises like making letters with playdough, drawing them in salt of paint, painting them in water on the fence or making them from spaghetti.
- Plan an Easter egg hunt in your back garden or a nearby park, where your child can search for hidden Easter eggs. You could also add fun challenges to make it more engaging like simple written passwords or clues.
- Encourage your child to look for the signs of spring when they're outside. Maybe they could draw or paint these?
- Encourage your children to move and dance to music or sing songs. Perhaps they could make up a dance and do a show for you?
- Do some baking together – it is the season for hot cross buns and shredded wheat Easter nests after all.... Can your child help with the measuring and pouring?

Remember to keep learning fun and interactive! Please also remember to rest – it's been a fun term but I'm sure you and your family are as exhausted as we are!

We hope you all have a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing the children back, healthy and rested, in the Summer Term.

Reception Team

