

This week in Reception

We hope you had a lovely and relaxing Easter break. We are excited to be back in school and very much looking forward to the term ahead.

This week in Reception, we have been exploring the classic story, The Little Red Hen. We first familiarised the children with the story, which prompted lots of discussion around the importance of helping your friends and whether or not the Little Red Hen should have shared her bread. We have had a lot of fun learning the story and beginning to retell it in different ways, whilst using actions. This is all in preparation for a special performance of The Little Red Hen, which we will invite you to come and watch during the week beginning 1st of May. Please see the end of this newsletter for more information.



We have also been learning about the Muslim celebration of Eid this week and the end of Ramadan. We've been exploring the different customs and traditions associated with this important holiday, reflecting on the importance of different cultural celebrations and thinking about the similarities between these. Eid Mubarak to those of you who celebrate this festival!

Tomorrow will be Stephen Lawrence Day, which we always mark in school as we feel it is important to celebrate who he was and think about what makes each of us special. We have been encouraging the children to think about the unique qualities that they bring to our classroom community and we have been celebrating diversity and inclusivity in all its forms.

Phonics:

In phonics, we have been recapping all of the previously learned digraphs and trigraphs, and practising reading words such as **carrot**, **tail**, **cannot**, **beard**, and **boat**. We have also been consolidating the previously learned tricky words, including **is**, **as**, **the**, **I**, **put**, **pull**, and **full**. We encourage you to continue to support your child's phonics learning by practising these words and sounds together at home. Maybe your child your child can tell you a story using the tricky words listed above?

Number:

In maths this week we have been exploring the concept of counting. This has included activities such as counting the beats of a drum or the number of claps, which demonstrates that abstract things can also be counted, and counting on from different numbers. We have also been practising counting larger quantities that cannot be subitized (as subitizing is only accurate when looking at smaller groups of 6 or less), and reviewing different strategies to assist in this, such as lining up or grouping objects. This is helping the children to develop their number sense and understanding of quantity.

Next Week:

Next week we will be rehearsing for our special performance of The Little Red Hen and thinking about different ways to innovate the story (such as changing the characters, setting or ending). We will also be celebrating Earth Day, learning about different climates, environments and wildlife and thinking about all the things that we can do to take care of our planet.



Reminders and Requests:

We have quite a few ongoing requests at the moment and would be grateful for anything you can spare.

- **Old cutlery and bread/muffin tins:** We would love some of these to use in our mud kitchen outside. We would therefore be very grateful for any old metal kitchen items you be planning on getting rid of.
- **Junk modelling:** Bears are running very low on junk modelling at the moment. Please bring in any small boxes/yoghurt pots/packaging that you have!
- **Fabric:** We would welcome any scrap fabric you have for our creative areas.
- **Aquatic plants:** We are hoping to develop our new Nature Area outside, with the ultimate aim to have some fish or frogs in our pond! In order to do this, we first need some aquatic plants to purify the water and were wondering if any of you might have any going spare?

Strike Days:

You have all been notified that further NEU strike days have been planned. These will take place on **Thursday 27th April** and **Tuesday 2nd May**.



Early Phase Garden Party: Saturday 13th May

This is only a few weeks away and we desperately need your help, please share on WhatsApp groups to help round up support. We rely on donations of items and time to ensure the event can go

ahead. The money raised will be used to supplement the coach for the Beach trip on 5th July.

As part of the Early Phase Garden Party each class will prepare a **colour-themed raffle hamper**. The boxes to place your donations in will be left by your child's class each drop-off and pick-up.

- Lions: **Metallic/sparkly**
- Bears: **Pink and red**
- Tigers: **Black and white**

Additionally, there are 'bins' at the Elsinore Road entrance for you to **donate tombola prizes**. These can be anything in new or good as new condition and can include bottles, please. Also any pre loved soft toys in good clean, condition.

Lastly, we really need **parents who can volunteer some of their time** to help with stalls and games, or help with set up / clearing up after. [Please sign up online by clicking this link](http://www.volunteersignup.org/XH377) or typing in this url into your browser: www.volunteersignup.org/XH377

Little Red Hen performances:

Each performance will take place in your child's classroom and will last around 15 minutes. It will include a retelling of The Little Red Hen and some of the children's favourite songs. Please enter school via the gate on Elsinore Road, which will be staffed from 2.50 – 3pm. You are welcome to take your child home at the end of the performance if this is convenient for you.

- **Wednesday 3rd May at 3pm – Tigers performance**
- **Thursday 4th May at 3pm – Bears performance**
- **Friday 5th May at 3pm – Lions performance**

Have a lovely weekend

