

This week in Reception

We have had a lovely week in Reception learning about the inventor of the Supersoaker, Lonnie Johnson and as a follow up to the children's first go at javelin throwing in some classes, the children learnt about Tessa Sanderson. These famous people provided perfect links to Black History month and the importance of positive role models for all children. Each class has started practising the songs for their performance, to which you are invited during the week of the 8th November. Every class will tell you about Goldilocks in one form or another, as well as providing some other musical entertainment for you, before you eat.

We have all been learning Makaton and the children are now developing a bank of different signs, which we are sure they would love to show you at home!

This week has been the run up to the important festival of light, Diwali. The children have been excited by the story, many of them loving the contrast between the success of good Prince Rama and Princess Sita and the overcoming of Ravana, who momentarily takes away their happiness before they are welcomed home along the well-lit path to massive celebrations in their kingdom. Many children have made their own Rangoli patterns as a way of deepening their understanding and respect for other cultures and ways of life.

The children may tell you they had their height and weight checked. This is a local authority activity from which you may receive a follow up letter. Should this happen, you are welcome to come and talk to us.

Number

In Numbers the children have introduced 4 and worked on their descriptive language when describing or making their own representations of 4 dots. This is presenting challenge for even the most confident 'counters'.

The children are also getting more confident when counting up to 30, which they do every day, now calculating how many children remain when some are away.

Little Wandle Phonics

This week we have continued teaching the Little Wandle phonics programme. The children have consolidated the previous phonemes (and corresponding graphemes) learnt (s a t p i n m d g o c k ck e u r) and learnt the new phonemes h b f l.



The children also read and blended the sounds together and on their own to make words like s-e-t, s-o-ck and have learnt to spell some simple words independently, eg) t-e-n. We revised the tricky word 'is' and 'I' and learnt the new tricky word **'the'**.

You can find more information about Little Wandle on the Little Wandle website:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk> Click on the 'Parent Tab' for some handy resources.

After Half Term **Farewell to Gabi**

Although Wednesday was a sad day when we said farewell to Gabi and gave her a send-off fit for a queen, we are delighted to have a new member of staff join Reception in the next half term. We have no doubt they will contribute hugely to the team and share much experience from other local settings. We will officially introduce them to you all in one of our following letters and the children will have plenty of opportunities to build new relationships with them.

Small change in Lions

Philippa will be taking on more management responsibility which will require her to be out of class more often. In order to cause as little disruption to the children and ensure continuity of their learning, Shula will be teaching Lions on Wednesday as well as continuing on Thursdays and Friday afternoon.

In January, Philippa will take on full assistant head responsibility for the duration of Ashleigh's maternity leave. Irene, a newly appointed teacher, will spend time in the class before Christmas in order to have a supported handover and get to know the children well.

Birthday Idea

As we are a Sugar Smart school, we are no longer able to distribute cakes or sweets donated by parents on children's birthdays. This sometimes leaves parents unsure what to do to mark their child's birthday. Luckily, one of our Reception parents has made a great suggestion; if you would like to mark your child's birthday in school, perhaps you could buy a book/small resource for your child's class to enjoy (or donate an unwanted toy or book from home), which your child will then 'gift' to all of their friends. If a book, please write a message inside of it so that all future children know that your child made a kind donation. You might also want to

wrap the present up (hopefully assisted by your child!) so that they have the honour of unwrapping it at the front of the carpet.

Important Reminders:

Focus Children Meetings:

If your child is chosen to be one of the three focus children from their class (Child of the Week/Special Helper/Class Pet Carer), please let your teacher know your availability for a short meeting to be held on the Friday of that week.

On a Friday, particularly if your child goes to WRAP, please check all their belongings for the letter that requests you tell us how you would like to meet at the end of the week. This will also give you the prompt to send in their shoe box of their favourite things for sharing. (NB nothing too precious please as we have had a few bits 'disappear'.)

Requests:

- This is quite a big, somewhat cheeky request... should anyone have a redundant working ipod or iPad at home that they would be willing to donate to their child's class teacher for us to use to take photos, we would be really delighted to receive it
- Please send in small boxes and collage bits for junk modelling
- Please name **all clothing** including boots

Dates for the Diary:

International event - Prompt entry via Elsinore Road at 2.20. If able, please bring food contribution as outlined in letter sent.

- Lions 8th Nov- 2.30- in class
- Tigers 9th Nov- 2.30- in class
- Bears 10th Nov-2.30- in class

St George's Church - Wednesday 16th November at times stated in your class letter.

If you did not receive this letter, please contact the office or your class teacher.

Please consider volunteering to help as this is the first visit out for Reception.

Have a lovely half term,

The Reception Team

