

Weekly Learning Letter

Friday 30th January 2026

This week in Reception:

This week in Reception, we have been focusing a lot on listening and following instructions through all areas of the day. The children are into their second term and it is always important to come back to our class charters. The importance of showing each other respect by listening, using kind words and trying our best to make good choices.

On Monday we started our '**Animals**' topic. The children began by sharing their favourite animals with each other, then which animals they would most like to learn about during our topic. Each class then chose **3 animals** to learn about in more depth. The children have been watching information videos and listening to stories and non-fiction books about their chosen animals. They have all been learning interesting facts about each animal and recording their facts on big posters that we have created together. This will continue into next week where the children will then begin to make their own fact book about one of those animals.

We rounded off our week with a **Dance Workshop!** Thank you to Antoinette who ran the sessions for each class and helped us to dance and move like animals to different music – it was great and the children had a lot of fun!



Toys

We have had lots of toys brought in to school recently and some things have sadly been lost, broken or swapped with others. We have found this creates additional problems that take up valuable learning time.

We would like to ask that the children do not bring any toys/special items to school.

Thank you for your understanding.

Weekly Learning Letter

Bookbags

Please continue to bring your child's bookbag into school on a **Monday**.

Spare Clothes

Please provide your child with spare clothes in a bag at school, so they can change if their clothes get wet.

Our own supply of spare clothes that we lend the children, is running very low! We would be grateful for any socks, pants, leggings, tracksuit bottoms, t shirts etc that your child or children no longer need – thank you!

Phonics

This week in Phonics the children have been revisiting and practising recognising and reading all the sounds and tricky words they have learned in the Autumn term.

They have learned the tricky words; **are**, **sure** and **pure**.

They have learned the new trigraph; **air** and digraph, **er**.

For each new sound there is a catchphrase!



air
chair in the air



er
a bigger digger

Helpful Phonics Websites

Phonics Play: [PhonicsPlay](#)

- Dragon's Den: [Dragons Den](#)
- Picnic on Pluto: [Picnic on Pluto](#)
- Buried Treasure: [Buried Treasure](#)

Weekly Learning Letter

ICT Games: [ictgames](#) - English: 4-5 year olds

- Poop Deck Pirates: [Poop Deck Pirates](#)
- Phonics Pop: [Phonics Pop](#)
- Help a Hedgehog: [Help A Hedgehog](#)

Maths

This week the children have been learning about odd and even numbers. They have enjoyed looking out for numbers that have 'Even Tops' or 'Odd Blocks' when using the Numicon. We have played lots of practical dice games and the children have started to look at whether the number can be shared into two equal groups to work out if a number is odd or even! We talked about the number on the door of our home and the number of the age we are and whether these numbers are odd or even.

This Numberblocks episode has helped bring it to life for the children – you could watch it together at home!

[Numberblocks - Series 2: Odds and Evens - BBC iPlayer](#)

Important Dates

- **Friday 13th February** - Stay and Play Phonics Focus
- **Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February** - Half term break
- **Monday 23rd February** - Back to school



Weekly Learning Letter

Home learning ideas:

We are collecting more resources this term for OPAL – please have a look at home and if you can, we would love some of these resources below! Please drop any resources to the large sheds marked OPAL by the main gate.

Thank you!

Get ready to play... OPAL BINGO



Acorns 	Baking pans 	Cake moulds 	Measuring spoons 	Strainers 
Baskets 	Cable spools 	Cones 	Containers 	Corrugated pipes 
Dress up items 	Fabric 	Funnels 	Nets 	Old electronics 
Pool noodles 	PVC pipes 	Ropes 	Shovels and spades 	Sinks and tubs 
Tires and wheels - big, small and weird 	Pots 	Colanders 	Wheelbarrow 	Watering cans 

