

Weekly Learning Letter

Friday 23rd January 2026

This week in Reception:

This week we concluded our topic '**Birthdays**'!

The children have LOVED celebrating the class pets' birthdays!

They really enjoyed decorating the classrooms, writing birthday cards, writing invitations and making party hats and crowns. They were excited on the day of the party to play games, decorate (and eat!) biscuits and make a fuss of their class pet!



Thank you to everyone who came along to the stay and play this morning – as always, the children love sharing their classroom with you!

Please note the next Stay and Play is **Friday 13th February**, the last day before the half term break.

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.

Bookbags

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

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Labelling belongings/Spare Clothes

A gentle reminder to please label all your child's belongings with their **name**. If your child has lost something, please check the lost property shed.

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 **by**, **my** and **all**

They have learned the digraphs **ear**, **ur**, **ow** and **oi**.

For each new sound there is a catchphrase!



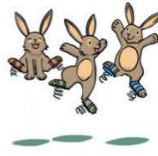
ear
get near to hear



ur
curl the fur



ow
wow owl



oi
boing boing

Helpful Phonics Websites

Phonics Play: [PhonicsPlay](#)

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

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

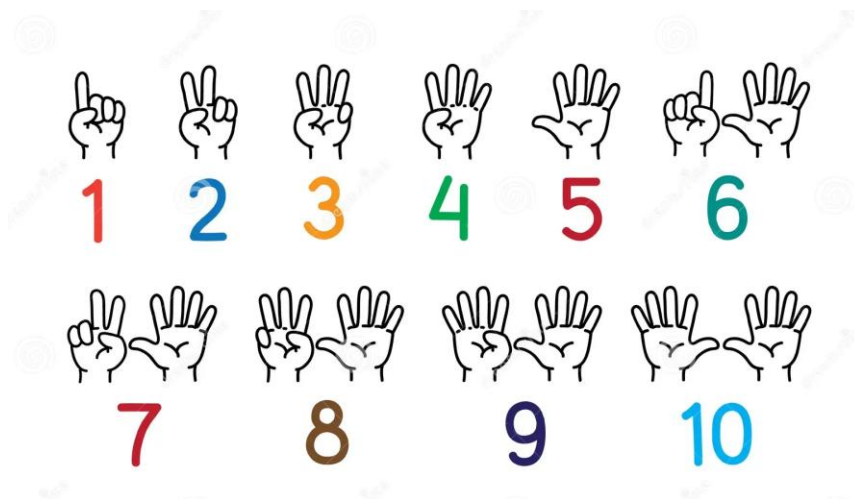
- Poop Deck Pirates: [Poop Deck Pirates](#)
- Phonics Pop: [Phonics Pop](#)
- Help a Hedgehog: [Help A Hedgehog](#)

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Maths

This week the children have been practising subitising to 10. They have been listening to songs, playing games practically and interactively all to support recognising amounts 1 to 10. The children have really enjoyed dice games, this would be a good way of practising Maths at home too!

We have also been practising showing numbers by using fingers. Help your child to practise this at home when they are playing and counting!



Important Dates

- **Friday 30th January** - Dance Workshop (in school, all morning) please ensure children wear comfortable shoes to dance/move in!
- **Friday 13th February** - Stay and Play Phonics Focus
- **Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February** - Half term break
- **Monday 23rd February** - Back to school

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Home learning ideas:

We have received lots of wonderful **WOW** cards recently – there have been many examples of children helping at home:

- Making their own bed
- Getting dressed by themselves
- Setting the table for mealtimes
- Washing up/Loading and Unloading the dishwasher

Please don't forget to share your child's WOW moments with us! If you have run out of WOW cards, just ask your child's teacher for more ... or you can write a WOW moment on any piece of paper!

