

Weekly Learning Letter

Friday 16th October 2026

This week in Reception:

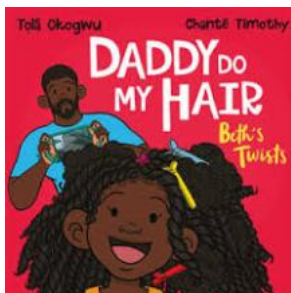
October is Black History Month, in Reception this week we have focused our learning on Black History and particularly of the life and work of Floella Benjamin. We have been listening to the story 'Coming to England' and the children have been talking about what they would pack in their suitcase and how we make people feel welcome if they have moved to our class, school or community.

We concluded our week with a wonderful workshop called 'A Carnival of Stories'. Please ask your child about the experience!



This week we have also been listening to many lovely stories such as, 'I am Nefertiti' which demonstrates the importance of using someone's full name and pronouncing it correctly and 'Hey You!' which is an exploration of growing up as black person and understanding that you can do anything and be anything you want regardless of your skin colour.

These stories provide excellent opportunities for open conversations and discussions. You may want to continue this at home.



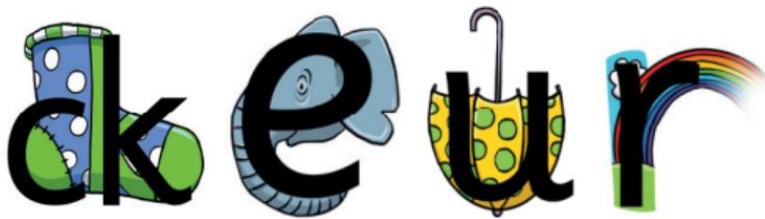
Weekly Learning Letter

Thank you for supporting 'Show Racism the Red Card' day by helping your child to wear red. It was a great way to round off the week reinforcing the message that we show respect to everyone.

We would appreciate (as much as possible!) if the children could now come into the classroom **independently**, saying goodbye at the door. Many of the children are doing this already and all of them are now familiar with where their peg is and with the morning routine of their class. **This is helpful for settling all the children and to enable us to get started with the school day.** Thank you.

Phonics

This week in Phonics the children have been revisiting the sounds they have already learned s,a,t,p,i,n,m,d,g,o,c,k and they have learned four new sounds:



At home go on a sound hunt and ask your children if they can find any objects that begin with these sounds (**sock, egg, umbrella, rug,**)

The children have also learned the tricky word **I** and **is** - tricky words are words the children learn as a whole word, they cannot be sounded out.

Maths

The children have been learning about 2D shapes – our focus has been square, rectangle, triangle, circle, pentagon and star. They have been looking around our learning environment for any 2D shapes they can spot!

Enjoy the 2D shape song together!

[Shapes song for kids | The Singing Walrus - YouTube](#)



Home learning ideas:

- Go on a 2D shape hunt at home! Ask your child questions about what they can see at home *What shape is the clock? What shape is the door?*
- Perhaps find creative ways of practicing **mark making** the letters in maybe sand, flour, paint or shaving foam, or even writing it on the palm of their hands or on their backs. We also had a rhyme for writing each letter which your child may remember!



Important Dates:

- **Half term Holiday** – Monday 26th – Friday 30th October
- **INSET Day, school closed for the children** – Monday 2nd November
- **Children Back to School** – Tuesday 3rd November
- **Reception Parents Stay and Play PSED focus** – Friday 20th November 8.50-9.45am
- **Educational Visit to St George's Church** - **You will receive more information soon**

Monday 30th November 10am – Bears Class

Thursday 3rd December 9.30am – Tigers Class

Thursday 3rd December 10.30am – Lions Class

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Reminders:

If your child is attending WRAP or an Enrichment club, please remind them that they will be attending that day to help them with the transition between the school day and after school provision.

Please provide a set of **spare clothes** for your child's peg in a separate bag. A **water bottle** for your child is also very useful and please do label all of their belongings with their **name**, thank you!

<u>Daily Class Timings</u>	<u>Outside Days</u>
Lions 8.50am - 3.20pm	Tuesdays - Lions
Tigers 8.55am - 3.25pm	Wednesdays - Bears
Bears 9.00am - 3.30pm	Thursdays - Tigers

Reading:

Your child has now brought home second reading book, their reading journal and a book they have chosen from the book corner in their classroom.

Please help your child to care for these books (not drawing on them, getting water on them etc.) as these books are for all the children to borrow at different points in their reading journey.

- For the **next week** your child will bring home a Foundation level book this is a book without words. Please look at the pictures with your child and get them used to handling a book and engaging with some reading time with you.
- **During half term** your child will not bring home a book – this can be a complete break for them after a busy first half of the term!
- **The first week after half term** we will be carrying out our phonics assessments which we do every 6 weeks. After this your child will receive a book that is suited to their reading level.

Bookbags will come home on **Thursdays** and should be brought in on **Mondays**.

Book bags:

Book bags are now available to purchase via Arbor. The cost is £8 per bag, or £5 for children who are eligible for Pupil Premium. **Once paid for these can be collected from the office.** These bags are ideal for carrying reading books, school books and reading journals safely between home and school. Please note that purchasing a school book bag is entirely optional.

Weekly Learning Letter

We need your help!

Small Parts

We are collecting small parts to use in the classroom. If you have any of these items that you could donate that would be amazing!

- Buttons
- Corks
- Bottle top lids
- Pinecones

Junk modelling

Children in reception use junk modelling to make their own designs, we will be thankful if you could bring any:

- Boxes
- Bottles
- Containers
- Small cardboard boxes (cereal, breadsticks etc.)

These can be used as junk modelling. Please make sure that these items are clean before you bring them to school and no packing that contained nuts.

School website

Please do [visit our website](#), you can find details of forthcoming events on the [calendar](#) (& you can subscribe to your child/ren's year group so it will auto update your calendar), as well as photos of learning activities including educational visits in the [photo gallery](#), read all about recent events and sporting achievements in the [school news](#) section and much, much more!

