



It's been another action-packed week in Reception! The children have been honing their art skills through observational drawing activities, focusing on the sweet peas and nasturtiums they've lovingly grown from seed since February. They demonstrated incredible creativity, using various 'shading techniques' to enhance their drawings with detail, carefully selecting different shades of green from pastels to pencils. We also encouraged them to be bold by skipping the traditional pencil outline and diving straight into adding colour.



On Monday, they put their knowledge of growing plants into practice by sowing vegetable seeds outdoors in the raised beds and more sensitive vegetable seeds indoors. The children will now be monitoring the plants' growth over the coming months, a great hands-on way to learn. We even have a blanket fleece to keep the seeds warm outdoors which the children loved.



As part of our jigsaw PSHE topic, 'Healthy Me,' we've been exploring the balance between movement and rest for a healthy body. The children have learned about the benefits of movement and stretching, the importance of raising our heart rates through exercise, and why resting—particularly sleeping—is just as essential.

Their understanding of the topic was truly insightful, especially when discussing challenges with sleep. During small circle time, we shared strategies to calm our minds and bodies, supporting restful sleep. It was a meaningful and practical discussion for everyone! We have shared an information sheet 'Why is sleep important' to look through with your child and open a conversation with them about developing a good sleeping pattern.



A big thank you to our wonderful volunteers who helped make the trip to the Stephenson Railway Museum amazing! The children were excited about being in a new learning environment and they actively took part in the numerous activities. Outside, the children became active explorers and inside, we learned about the history of trains and who you find at a train station. It was a fantastic day!

Thank you for helping your child with their Weekly Journal! These entries have been a joy to read and are an excellent way to build their independence in forming simple sentences. Encouraging them to focus on basic sentence structure and to read their work back ensures it makes sense while also boosting their comprehension skills. Your support makes a difference!

Mathematics:

Over the past few weeks, we've been exploring numbers beyond 5, with a focus on 6, 7, and 8. The children have been learning to see these numbers as '5 and a bit'—for example, recognising that 6 is 5 and 1 more, and 7 is 5 and 2 more. This approach has helped deepen their understanding of numbers by building on their knowledge of 5.



We've been having fun finding different number pairs for each number, like $2+5=7$ or $4+3=7$. The children enjoyed spotting patterns using cubes and predicting if 8 would have more pairs since it's bigger than 6 and 7.

Important diary dates and information

25.3.25 & 26.3.25 Mother's Day gift shop

4.4.25 Vision screening ([Child vision screening information for parents - GOV.UK](#))

7.4.25 Reception's Spring Assembly, 2.30pm (Please note that due to our hall's capacity we can only invite two family members per child)

10.4.25 Southridge Sponsored Fun Run

11.4.25 Break up for the Easter Holidays

28.4.25 Return to school

Reminders/ requests:

- Your child's 'My Weekly Journal' will be collected on Monday 31st March. A huge thank you again for your support in completing these with the children.
- Junk modelling. We would welcome any clean recycling such as cardboard boxes, kitchen roll tubes, yoghurt pots for our junk resources. Please make sure that the containers are clean and that none that have contained nuts. Thank you in advance.



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