



We've had another lovely week in Reception, and it's been wonderful to see the children growing more confident each day. They're settling beautifully into their routines, getting to know their new school family, and beginning to form meaningful new friendships. Starting school is a big transition, and it's natural for children to feel a little overwhelmed as they adjust to new surroundings and expectations. But they've shown such resilience, curiosity, and joy as they explore their new environment. We're incredibly proud of the way they're embracing each part of the day.



On Friday, the children celebrated the *International Day of Languages* by learning all about France. They explored famous landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, tasted traditional French treats including croissants, baguettes, and crêpes, and practised simple greetings like *bonjour* and *au revoir*.

We also looked at the French flag, known as the *tricolour*, and talked about its three colours—blue, white, and red—and what they represent. The children had fun learning to say numbers up to five in French: *un, deux, trois, quatre, cinq*. To bring the language to life, they sang *I Can Sing a Rainbow* and had a brilliant time dancing along to *Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*—in French!

phonics



This week in phonics, we've been learning the 'pure' sounds for: **m, a, s, d, and t**. Each morning, we practise these sounds together using our "My turn, your turn" routine—where the teacher models the sound and the children echo it back. The children have especially enjoyed spotting objects, naming items, and identifying people whose names begin with these sounds.

Next week, we'll be introducing the next set of five sounds: **i, n, p, g, and o**. As we go, we're steadily building a bank of sounds, exploring how some are 'stretchy' (like *m* and *s*) and others are 'bouncy' (like *a, d, and t*).

The *Read Write Inc.* website offers a wealth of helpful videos and resources to support your child's phonics learning. One particularly useful page is "**How to say the sounds**", which demonstrates accurate pronunciation and helps families feel confident when practising at home. To access it, visit the [Parent guide to Read Write Inc. Phonics - Oxford Owl](#) then click on the section titled "*How to say the sounds.*"

To help reinforce your child's learning at home, here are a few playful and practical activities:

- **Sound formation:** Practise writing the sounds in different materials—paper, sand, mud, or shaving foam! Your child's Home Learning Journal includes a writing sheet with rhymes to support letter formation.
- **Mirror sounds:** Encourage your child to say each sound while looking in the mirror. They can observe how their mouth, tongue, and teeth move to make each one.
- **I-Spy with sounds:** Play "I-Spy" using the sounds when you're out and about. For example, "I spy something beginning with *s*..."
- **Sound passwords:** Cut out the sounds from the sheets and stick them on doors around your home. As your child moves through each doorway, they can say the sound as a fun 'password'.



This week, the children have been developing their ability to *subitise*—which means recognising how many objects are in a small group without needing to count them one by one. It's a powerful early maths skill that helps build number sense and confidence.

Subitising comes in two forms:

- Perceptual subitising: Instantly recognising small quantities (usually up to 3) just by looking.
- Conceptual subitising: Spotting patterns or sub-groups within a larger set. For example, if six dots are arranged like a dice face, children might see 'two 3s' and know that makes 6.

Some arrangements are easier to subitise than others—like three dots in a triangle compared to a random scatter. That's why we'll be exploring lots of different layouts to help children build flexibility and fluency.

Important diary dates and information

Dates:

3.10.25 - deadline for any Harvest Festival donations

6.10.25 - Home Learning Journals to be brought into school.

7.10.25 - Red House Ramble Walk

13.10.25 and 14.10.25 - Parents meetings (further information to follow from the school office)

20.10.25 - Parent meeting/ workshop to learn about supporting the children at home with phonics

w/c 27.10.25 Half term

Red House Ramble: Volunteers. Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered for the Red House Ramble walk on Tuesday 7th October—your support is greatly appreciated. We're still looking for a few more helpers, so if you're available that morning, please let the Reception Team know as soon as possible. Your involvement truly makes a difference.

For those who are volunteering, please come to the school office at 9:00am on Tuesday 7th October. Reception staff will provide a short briefing covering the risk assessment, expectations for the morning, and your roles and responsibilities during the walk.

Reminders:

- **Nut-free Packed Lunches and Snacks**

Please can we remind parents **not** to send in packed lunch items or snacks which contain nuts. We have children in school with **extremely** serious nut allergies. We appreciate your help in this matter.

- Your child's Home Learning Journal is in their book bag and will be collected on Monday 6th October to share with their class. You can support your child by helping them record special moments—this might be through a photo, drawing, short piece of writing, or simple mark making. Entries don't need to be long; a small snapshot, no more than a page, is just right.

Thank you for your support.

Have a wonderful weekend
Take care, The Reception Team 😊