

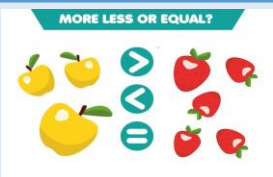


It's been another busy and joy-filled week in Reception! Despite the rainy weather, our outdoor learning continued with enthusiasm — the children embraced the elements in their wetsuits and wellies, showing great spirit and adaptability. Learning to dress independently is an important skill for children to develop. These self-care abilities are a key part of their growth and represent an important milestone under 'Managing Self' in the Personal, Social and Emotional Development area of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework. Your continued encouragement at home makes a real difference — thank you, as always, for your support.



On Tuesday morning, we watched CBeebies Poppies — a beautiful animation that follows a young rabbit through the poppy fields. Inspired by the film, the children created their own poppies using collage materials, which we then assembled into a poppy wreath for display. Later in the day, we added a sweet touch by decorating biscuits with coloured icing and chocolate drops to resemble poppies — a creative treat that was thoroughly enjoyed in the afternoon.

This week, we've been strengthening our fine motor skills with 'Dough Disco' — a lively, hands-on activity that gets little fingers moving, squishing, and dancing to music! It's a joyful way to build the strength, stamina, and control children need for early writing. Alongside this, the children have continued their daily handwriting practice, focusing on correct letter formation through gentle repetition and encouragement. Activities like play dough, clay modelling, and baking are brilliant for developing fine motor skills. These playful, practical experiences support finger strength, coordination, and control — all essential foundations for writing. They also nurture focus, creativity, and confidence. These are lovely activities to try at home too — whether it's rolling dough, shaping clay, or helping with baking, every squeeze and stir helps build the muscles and coordination children need for writing.



Children begin comparing quantities from a young age, noticing attributes and exploring similarities and differences. This week, our activities build on those early instincts by encouraging children to compare two sets of objects through 1:1 matching.

By noticing when objects can be paired without any left over, children begin to understand when quantities are equal. This hands-on approach helps deepen their understanding of number and comparison. Language will be a key focus throughout, with adults modelling and reinforcing terms such as 'more than', 'fewer than', and 'an equal number' to describe what they see. Because we're working with countable items, we'll use 'fewer than' rather than 'less than', and 'more than' rather than 'greater than' to support accurate mathematical language.

Ideas for home:

- Provide opportunities during routines for the children to match real-world objects and see if there are 'enough', e.g. setting the table for dinner, setting up a picnic for cuddly toys etc.
- 'Let's Compare' game on Top Mark Maths [Let's Compare - Early Years Size Comparison Game](#)
- Take turns hiding a handful of small objects (like cubes or pasta) behind their backs. Children guess who might have more — and explain why. A fun way to practise comparing quantities, reasoning, and using language like *more than*, *fewer than*, and *equal number*.



You may have already heard some festive singing at home — we're busy practising Christmas songs and preparing for our nativity performances in December.

Those children who wanted to help narrate the story will be given a line to learn, and we'll send their lines home in book bags soon so you can enjoy practising together. Once parts are assigned, we'll provide costumes for children with specific roles. All other children will be invited to wear a Christmas-themed t-shirt with jeans or leggings for the performance.



Thank you for supporting your child's reading at home — practising sounds, segmenting, and blending really helps build their confidence and supports their progress. We'd be grateful if you could jot down any comments about your child's reading in the designated section of their folder. If you have any questions or would like to chat about their reading journey, please don't hesitate to speak with your class teacher.

Important diary dates and information

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| 28.11.25 | Christmas Jumper day - children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper on this day (please bring a donation to the chocolate tombola if you can). |
| 5.12.25 | School Christmas Fair (more information to follow) |
| 9.12.25 | 2.15pm Reception and afternoon Nursery's Christmas Performance in the school hall. Parents and carers of children in Mrs Gendler-Watson's class are invited to attend on this date. Please note, due to seating capacity, a maximum of two adults per child can be accommodated. |
| 12.12.25 | 9.30am Reception and morning Nursery's Christmas Performance in the school hall. Parents and carers of children in Miss Flitcroft's class are invited to attend on this date. Please note, due to seating capacity, a maximum of two adults per child can be accommodated. |
| 19.12.25 | Reception's Christmas Party Day - we'll share more details as the date approaches. |

Reminders:

- **Home Learning Journals.** We will be collecting in the learning journals on Monday 17th November to share with the class over the week.
- **Cool Milk.** Please remember that your child/ children are not eligible for free school milk after their 5th birthday. If you would like your child to continue having milk at school, you must contact Cool Milk directly at least two weeks before their birthday.



Southridge First School

'Proud to Make a Positive Impact'

Have a lovely weekend
The Reception Team ☺