

Reception Newsletter: 16.1.26



This week in Reception, we continued our exciting winter theme by exploring Animals in Winter. The children learned about how different animals adapt to the cold season.

Through stories like 'Animals in Winter' by Henrietta Bancroft we discussed and investigated three fascinating strategies animals use to survive:

- **Migration** - Some animals travelled to warmer places during winter. We looked at examples like birds and butterflies and talked about why they move.
- **Hibernation** - Other animals, such as hedgehogs and bears, sleep through the winter months. The children learned what hibernation means and how these animals prepare for it.
- **Adaption** - Many animals, like foxes and squirrels, remain active all winter long. We explored how they find food and keep warm.

The children deepened their understanding of the natural world and seasonal changes through forest school activities where they worked together to build homes to help keep the animals warm and safe through the winter months.

You can continue to support this learning at home by talking about animals you see outside, reading winter-themed books together, or spotting birds in your garden or local park.



In Maths, the children continued to engage with activities that draw attention to the purpose of counting - to find out 'how many' objects there are. They revisited the concept of cardinality - that the last number in the count tells us how many things there are altogether. They were also provided with plenty of opportunities to hear, join in with, and develop their knowledge of the counting sequence, strengthening their understanding of numbers in a fun and practical way.

A key focus this week was the stable order principle - rehearsing the order of the first 5 numbers and understanding that the position each number holds in our number sequence does not change. While continuing to work with numbers to 5, the children developed their understanding of the ordinal aspect by investigating the difference in value of consecutive whole numbers. They discovered that each number has a value of 1 more than the previous number. Using blocks and squares to order quantities from 1 to 5 helped to embed this key understanding.

Fun Activity to Try at Home

Number Train Game

Cut out five rectangles and write the numbers 1-5 on them. Ask your child to arrange them in the correct order to make a "number train." Once they've mastered this, mix them up and play again! You can make it more fun by adding toy passengers (like small animals or cars) and asking questions such as:

- "Which carriage comes first?"
- "What number comes after 3?"
- "Can you make the train go backwards?"



This simple game reinforces the stable order principle and helps children understand that each number has its own fixed position.

In Literacy, the children wowed us with their fantastic writing skills! They used their Fred Fingers to help sound out and spell words and captions. We practised the important skill of saying a sentence aloud and holding it in our head while spelling and writing it down. Their confidence and independence in writing are really growing, and we are so proud of their progress.



Important diary dates and information

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9.2.26 & 10.2.26 - Parent Consultations

13.2.26 - Break up for February Half Term holiday

23.2.26 - School open for Spring Term 2

6.3.26 - Reception farm trip to Whitehouse Farm- Please ensure you have filled out the consent form to confirm your child's place on the trip. You can access the consent form and more information on ParentPay.

We are in the process of changing our email addresses. If you need to contact the teachers please use our new email address as follows:-

shelley.gendler-watson@southridgefirst.org.uk

joanne.flitcroft@southridgefirst.org.uk

Reminders:

- Home Learning Journals.** We will be collecting the journals in on Monday 19th January to share with the class over the week.
- Labelling items of clothing-** Please can you ensure all items of clothing including hats, gloves, scarfs, shoes, jumpers/cardigans and coats are labelled clearly with your child's name.
- 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.



Have a lovely weekend
The Reception Team ☺