



Reception Stephenson Steam Railway Museum Trip

Last Friday, Reception had a fantastic trip to the Stephenson Steam Railway Museum!

The children were very excited for the coach journey and travelled brilliantly. Once we arrived, we split into our classes and took part in a range of engaging activities around the museum.

Indoors, we explored the train shed and spotted lots of old locomotives before working in small groups to find photographs of different railway workers and learn about their roles. The children loved dressing up as railway guards, using red and green flags to signal when trains should stop and go. We also enjoyed a lively interactive story, joining in with the repeated phrase "*clickety clack, clickety click*". In the craft room, the children worked together to decorate trains and carriages, as well as creating puppet passengers, which we've proudly brought back to display in our classroom.

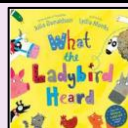
Outdoors, we became explorers, following a nature trail to spot minibeast sculptures before taking part in a bug hunt, building homes for creatures, and creating beautiful nature art.

The day was full of fun and excitement and flew by, with one of the highlights being lunchtime together in the picnic rooms! A huge thank you to all of our wonderful parent volunteers for your support—you were amazing with the children, and we really appreciate your help.

We would also like to thank the staff at the museum for providing such a well-organised and enjoyable experience for everyone.



What the ladybird heard by Julia Donaldson



This week in EYFS, we have been enjoying our new focus text, *What the Ladybird Heard* by Julia Donaldson. We have loved repeating the rhymes and joining in with the different phrases the animals say throughout the story. The children have used these repeated phrases in their own writing by writing about what the animals said. We are becoming very confident at saying the sentence we want to write before using our phonics knowledge, sounds and tricky words to help us write it independently. We have been using our Fred Fingers to sound out and spell words, and we are beginning to remember to use capital letters at the beginning of our sentences, finger spaces between words and full stops at the end.

The story has also inspired lots of exciting outdoor learning, including building obstacle courses and traps to catch the thieves, Lanky Len and Hefty Hugh! We have also enjoyed drawing our own maps and using positional language to direct the animals to catch the thieves. We are looking forward to continuing with the *What the Ladybird Heard* series next week too.

Sports Day Practice

We have begun practising for our upcoming Sports Day on Tuesday 16th June at 2pm.

The children are using all the skills they have been learning in PE and applying them to the different activities they will take part in during Sports Day.

We are working well as a team, encouraging each other and supporting one another when we find things a little tricky. It has been wonderful to see the children demonstrating our core values during practice sessions, and we hope this continues into our Sports Day event.

Well done, everyone!



Important diary dates and information

16.5.26- EYFS open morning 9:30-11:30am for prospective parents and their children of nursery and reception age. Please share with prospective families who would like to see our wonderful school.

21.5.26- School closes for May Half term holiday

22.5.26- Teacher training day

1.6.26- Back to school for summer term 2

16.6.26- Rec, yr 1 sports day (2-3pm)

30.6.26 - New to Year One, Meet the Teacher evening 3.30-4.30pm

Play sand update

Following recent warnings regarding asbestos in certain play sand products, we would like to reassure you that we have taken immediate and precautionary action.

We have carefully checked all school resources against the list of recalled products and can confirm that none are held or used on our site. As an additional precaution, advised by North Tyneside's Health & Safety Team, we have temporarily covered and cordoned off all outdoor sand play areas, including those operated by Kids Planet.

These measures will remain in place until we receive further guidance from the Health & Safety Team confirming that it is safe to resume normal use.

The safety and wellbeing of our children is always our highest priority, and we will continue to keep you informed of any updates.

Reminders:

- **School Dinners** - Please remember to have a quick chat with your child each morning about what they might like for their school dinner. This helps them feel more confident when making their choice in school. We also gently encourage children to try new foods, helping them to develop a healthy and varied diet.
- **Home learning Journals-** Thank you for all the lovely journal entries this week. We will be collecting the journals in on Monday 18th May.
- **Reading folders-** Please ensure your child's reading folder is in their book bag every day. We change books usually on a Monday and Friday, but we sometimes get a chance to read with your child through the week too. **Please can we remind parents/ carers to record in their child's journal when you have read with your child at home too.**
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- **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.



Southridge First School

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Have a lovely weekend.

The Reception Team 😊