



## Big Maths Party-The Magic of Maths

As part of our whole-school Big Maths Party Day, Reception joined thousands of children across North Tyneside for a spectacular celebration of mathematics. This year's theme, *The Magic of Maths*, encouraged children to experience the joy, wonder and creativity at the heart of the subject.

We began the day with a whole-school assembly where we found out all about the special event and became excited to explore maths in lots of fun ways.

We then headed outside into our Early Years yard for a range of exciting mathematical activities. To warm up, we played a positional language game where the children followed instructions and moved around the yard using mathematical vocabulary such as *under*, *behind*, *next to* and *between*. The children then used this language during two focus challenges. First, they followed a map of the outdoor area to hunt for treasure and explained carefully where the treasure was hidden. The second challenge combined maths and physical development as the children completed an obstacle course and a series of tasks within a given time. We also enjoyed an independent group challenge where the children worked together to build a den to fit a set number of children inside. As the number changed throughout the challenge, the children had to reorganise and adapt their structures, showing fantastic teamwork, problem-solving and mathematical thinking.

Back inside, we read the story *How Much Does a Ladybird Weigh?* and explored numbers to 10 by investigating how different amounts of insects could balance and weigh the same as other insects. The children enjoyed comparing quantities, counting carefully and discussing their mathematical ideas together. We also had great fun singing mathematical songs and discussing interesting images, identifying where we could spot maths in everyday life.

We all had a wonderful time celebrating maths in such a fun and practical way, and the children truly wowed us with their amazing mathematical thinking and the language they used throughout the day.

You can continue the maths fun at home with this great activity!

**WHERE'S THE MATHS IN THAT?**

Choose a day this weekend and think about where you see or hear maths! It could be numbers, shapes, patterns, measures, prices, percentages and lots more too.

The collage includes: an alarm clock showing the time; a market stall with a sign for 'MATHS' and prices like '£6.80'; a car dashboard with various gauges; a soccer player in a red jersey; a dartboard with a hand pointing; a 'Sale 50% off' sign; a pizza being cut; a kitchen scale; a license plate 'GD70 E00'; and a row of colorful houses.

You could record your findings in your yellow journals and bring them in on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June to share with your friends.

Happy magical maths hunting 😊



## Butterfly update.



After waiting very patiently for the caterpillars to change inside their chrysalises, we were finally able to watch them emerge as beautiful butterflies.

We were very lucky that all of our caterpillars successfully transformed, and the children were so excited to help release them into the wild after giving them time to dry their wings and prepare for flight. Some of the butterflies flew away straight away, while others were carefully placed onto leaves and flowers in the sensory garden until they were ready to fly off.

The children loved being able to observe the butterflies up close as the teachers carefully brought them around on their hands. We were fascinated by the beautiful patterns and colours on their wings and noticed that the wings were symmetrical on both sides.

It was wonderful to see the bright colours revealed when the butterflies opened their wings fully.

Watching the tiny caterpillars grow and transform into butterflies has been a truly magnificent experience for us all, and we think some of our butterflies may still be visiting our school after spotting one fluttering around our Early Years yard!

### Celebrating Progress and Preparing for Year 1

As we move into our final term, we have been completing our final phonics assessments. These are used to carefully organise our phonics groups, ensuring every child receives the right level of support to achieve their very best. The outcomes from these assessments, along with ongoing observations, will contribute to our end-of-year assessments linked to the Early Learning Goals (ELGs). The ELGs are the national expectations that outline what most children are expected to achieve by the end of Reception across all areas of learning, including communication and language, physical development, personal, social and emotional development, literacy, mathematics and understanding the world.

Our final judgements are based on a wide range of evidence gathered throughout the year, including observations, interactions, and a deep understanding of each child's individual development. These teacher assessments will be shared with you in your child's end-of-year report.

We are incredibly proud of every single child in Reception this year. They have made fantastic progress and achieved so much, and we are truly impressed by their enthusiasm and hard work. We are looking forward to an exciting final half term filled with continued learning and fun, alongside our transition activities to help support the children as they move confidently into Year 1.



## Important diary dates and information

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

1.7.26- Whole school transition day.

3.7.26- Summer Fair- 3:30pm

8.7.26- Reports sent out

17.7.26- School closes for summer Holidays

1.9.26- Teacher training day

2.9.26- First day of Year 1 😊

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> June.
- **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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 half term holiday.

The Reception Team 😊