

Reception Newsletter: 02.10.26



What a wonderful week it has been in Reception. It's hard to believe the children have already been with us for five weeks — they are settling beautifully into the rhythms and routines of school life. Navigating the many transitions across the day can be tricky at first, especially moving between the classroom, the outdoors and the hall, but the children are growing in confidence and independence with each passing week.

Indoors, we have been introducing how to use a paintbrush effectively — practising a comfortable grip, exploring different brush edges, and noticing how the paint moves across the paper. The children have loved experimenting with adding more or less water to create different effects, and it has been a lovely way to observe their developing fine-motor and artistic skills.

We have also loved seeing all the wonderful autumn treasures the children have been bringing in to share with their friends. Conkers, colourful leaves, acorns and pinecones have sparked so much curiosity and conversation in the classroom. The children have enjoyed comparing their finds, noticing similarities and differences, and proudly talking about where they discovered them. Our nature table is looking fantastic thanks to their excitement and contributions.

We are really looking forward to our school trip — a nature walk along the Red House Ramble on 16th October. Thank you so much to everyone who has already volunteered to join us. We do still need a few more helpers from Mrs Gendler-Watson's class, so if you are able to come along, please let a member of the Reception team know as soon as possible.

Phonics

In phonics this week, we have been learning the *pure* sounds for o, c, k and u, alongside practising all of the sounds we have introduced so far. Please note that these sounds have been put in book bags to practise sounding and writing. A reminder that we will be holding our parent phonics workshop on Tuesday 13th October at 4.45pm in the school hall. During this session, we will introduce the phonics scheme we follow, share helpful tips for supporting early reading at home, and signpost families to useful websites.

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, we are currently learning the first Set 1 sounds, and using pure pronunciation at home makes a big difference to children's early reading confidence [Bing Videos](#)

Ideas for home to help reinforce the children's learning:

- Forming their sounds on paper, in sand, in mud or any other sensory material can be really helpful.
- Practise writing their name, using a capital letter at the start.
- Make sounds with playdough — rolling, shaping and pressing the letters.
- Use a paintbrush and water outside to 'paint' the sounds on walls, fences or paving stones.
- Trace sounds in rice, flour or salt trays to build confidence with letter formation.
- Listen for sounds in words — e.g., "Can you hear the *s* at the start of *sun*?"
- Make a 'sound scrapbook' by sticking pictures of objects that begin with each sound.

Maths

In maths this week, we have been comparing items by size. The children are learning that objects can be compared and ordered by looking closely at how big or small they are. At this stage, we use items with a clear difference in size so the children can make comparisons by eye. We model language such as *big*, *little*, *large* and *small*, and encourage the children to describe what they notice. Using real, physical objects helps them place items side by side and talk about which is bigger or smaller.

We have also begun exploring **mass** and **capacity**. The children have enjoyed feeling and lifting different objects to decide which is *heavier* or *lighter*, and using simple containers to compare which holds *more* or *less*. These hands-on experiences help them build early mathematical language and understanding, and they love the practical nature of these activities.

Ideas for home:

- Compare toys or household objects by size using words like *big* and *small*.
- Sort family shoes from smallest to biggest.
- Explore *heavier* and *lighter* by lifting two objects and talking about the difference.
- Play with containers in the bath or sink to explore *full*, *empty*, *more* and *less*.
- Collect autumn treasures and compare their size, mass or which ones fill a container more.

Important diary dates and information

13.10.26 - 4.45pm Reception Reading Parent Session

16.10.26 - Reception Trip - nature walk along the Red House Ramble.

19.10.25 and 20.10.25 - Parents meetings (further information to follow)

22.10.26 Last Day of Autumn 1

23.10.26 Teacher Training Day

w/c 26.10.26 Half term

2.11.26 - Teacher Training Day

3.11.26 - First Day of Autumn 2 half term

18.12.26 - Last Day of Autumn term

Have a wonderful weekend
Take care, The Reception Team 😊