



Our story stimulus this week has been *The Little Red Hen*. The children have enjoyed exploring the repetitive pattern of the tale and have been joining in confidently with the familiar phrases, using expression and character voices. We used the story to model simple 'story maps', helping the children understand how events link together and how pictures can support early retelling. We also talked about helping others and working as a team, which led to some thoughtful conversations during group time.



Farmer Time! Across school each year group has an exciting opportunity to learn about life on a farm through the different seasons. On Tuesday, the Reception children met Donya from Peacock Farm in Muston, who gave them a glimpse into what it's like to manage her farm. Donya took the children on a tour of part of the farm, she explained that they run an arable farm, primarily growing wheat but also care for bee hives and have chickens. The children listened well and asked Donya plenty of questions about farm life.

It was a great learning experience, and we will have another opportunity to catch up with Donya next half term, when they'll be able to find out what's been happening at the farm.



To support the prime area of 'Physical Development' each week we continue to provide activities that help strengthen the children's fine motor skills. Clay or Play-Doh is a great activity for home and school. The actions of pushing, pulling, squeezing, pinching and rolling supports the children to 'develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently. This may be a lovely activity to try at home or something similar such as baking biscuits, especially on a rainy day.

Phonics

We have moved into our phonics groups this week. The children are assessed every six weeks through the Read Write Inc. scheme, and these regular check-ins help us match teaching to each child's stage of learning. It is not a race; these gentle assessments ensure every child continues to feel confident and secure as they progress.

In their groups, the children have been revisiting previously taught sounds and beginning to practise listening for the segmentation and blending of simple CVC and VC words. We are also sending home some reading activities in your child's reading folder, linked to the phonics learning they have been practising in class. Please keep the folder in their book bag each day so it can travel easily between home and school. A few calm minutes practising together at home really supports early reading confidence.

We warmly encourage parents/carers to come along to our Reading Parent Workshop next Tuesday evening, 13th October at 4.45pm, where we will share helpful strategies for supporting early reading at home. Our aim is for each child to learn at a pace that suits them, building confident, enthusiastic early readers who develop a genuine love of reading.

Maths

This week, the children have been investigating patterns all around them. They have enjoyed spotting repeating colours, shapes and designs in their environment — from the stripes on their clothing to the tiles on the floor. We shared the lovely story *Pattern Fish* by Trudy Harris, which helped the children notice how patterns can appear in pictures, words and rhythms. They have also been exploring patterns in sound, listening carefully for sequences that repeat and having a go at creating their own.

Alongside this, we have been supporting the children with their early counting strategies. We have been practising careful counting using 1-to-1 correspondence, encouraging the children to touch or point to each object as they say the number aloud. Using their fingers to track each item helps them slow down, focus and build confidence in counting accurately.

Ideas for practising at home

- Count out objects together — for example, pieces of fruit, toy cars or building blocks.
- Practise counting *in* objects, such as putting five crayons into a pot or three teddies into a basket.
- Encourage your child to touch or move each item as they count to support careful, accurate counting.

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
- 8.12.26 - Christmas performance 2.30pm
- 18.12.26 - Last Day of Autumn term

Request:

We are collecting **clean, dry recycling** for our junk modelling. Please remember we are a **nut-free school**, so no containers that have held nuts or list nuts in the ingredients. We also cannot accept **milk containers** or **egg boxes**. Thank you for your support.

Please can children have only one or two small key rings on their book bags. Large key rings or several together can tangle with other bags and straps, making it harder for children to place them safely in the shared book-bag baskets. Thank you for your support.

Have a wonderful weekend
Take care, The Reception Team 😊