

Reception Newsletter: 16.10.26



What a truly heart-warming week we've had in Reception. The children have loved diving back into *The Little Red Hen*, and this familiar story has given them a safe, comforting starting point for their very first writing task — writing "not I" for the characters who chose not to help the Little Red Hen.

As we shared during Tuesday's Parent Reading Session, early writing is a huge undertaking for our little ones. Their bodies and brains are working incredibly hard: finding their seat, settling at the table, remembering to hold the paper still, managing a pencil grip that still feels new, thinking about the sounds they want to write, the order of those sounds, how each letter is formed, how much pressure to use, writing from left to right... all while trying to remember what they wanted to say. It's a lot for such small hands and such busy minds. We supported them throughout — modelling, encouraging, breaking things down into tiny steps, and celebrating every effort. Everyone was supported so they could feel safe, confident and proud of what they achieved.



Outdoors, the children have been completely absorbed in all things autumn. They worked together to build giant marble runs and loved watching conkers race through them, sharing ideas, cheering each other on and making excited predictions. They also used their growing scissor skills to snip colourful leaves into tiny "leaf confetti," taking such care and pride in their cutting. Alongside this, the children have been painting leaves and sycamore seeds, noticing the shapes, patterns and colours that appear when they look closely. With all these beautiful nature treasures — conkers, acorns, pinecones, painted leaves and swirling sycamore seeds — it feels like the perfect moment to introduce *Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert. Next week, we'll be using the story to inspire the children's own nature creations, encouraging them to explore how natural materials can become characters, pictures and stories. It's a gentle, imaginative next step that builds on everything they've been enjoying outdoors.

Reading Parent Workshop

Thank you so much for coming along on Tuesday evening. We truly appreciate you giving up your time to join us, and it was lovely to share how early reading and phonics look in Reception. During the session, we talked through how children begin to blend, how we introduce new sounds, and how families can support reading at home in simple, pressure-free ways.

We know it was a lot of information all at once, so please do take your time looking through the PowerPoint that will be shared with you. It's there to revisit whenever you need it. And of course, if you have any further questions or would like anything explained again, please just ask — we are always here to help.

Most importantly, as we said on Tuesday, early reading is all about building a love of stories: enjoying characters, talking together, sharing imagination and making reading feel warm and joyful. There is absolutely no rush with phonics. We move at a pace where each child feels confident, secure and happy, celebrating their progress step by step. Thank you again for your support.

Maths

In number, we have continued practising subitising amounts up to 5. Subitising is when children can look at a small group of objects and instantly recognise "how many" without needing to count each one. For example, when they see three dots on a dice, they know it's *three* straight away. This skill helps build strong number sense and confidence with early maths.

We have also continued exploring our counting strategies, focusing on careful 1-to-1 correspondence — touching or pointing to each object as they say the number aloud — and learning how to count in a way that avoids counting the same object twice. The children have been practising slowing down, tracking each item clearly and using their "counting voices" to help them stay focused.

Ideas for home:

- Show your child a small group of objects (up to 5) for just one second, then cover them. Ask, "How many did you see?" This builds quick subitising skills.
- On a walk, collect up to 5 natural objects — conkers, leaves, pebbles. Ask your child to arrange them in different patterns and say how many there are without counting each one.
- Use fruit slices, raisins or crackers. Put out small groups (1-5) and ask, "How many do you think there are?" before they count. Snack time becomes maths time.
- Line up toys or teddies and encourage your child to move each one into a basket as they count. This supports careful 1-to-1 correspondence and avoids double-counting.

Important diary dates and information

- 19.10.25 and 20.10.25 - Parents meetings.
- 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

Change of PE days after the half term holiday:

After half term Reception's PE days will change to Wednesday and Friday. The children will need to come to school on these days wearing their PE kit. As the weather gets colder, please ensure your child has appropriate clothing for PE, particularly for outdoor lessons such as warm joggers (please refer to the uniform guide on our website)

Have a wonderful weekend
Take care, The Reception Team 😊