

Reception News

We're continuing with our 'Starry Night' theme this week. The children have loved finding out about nocturnal animals, stars, constellations and planets. We've had some children bringing books in related to our topics and pictures put on Tapestry which have been lovely to see and share with the rest of the class.

This week we are learning:

Phonics – this week we are learning the oo sound. This can be a short sound in words like book, foot and look or a long sound in words like boot, food and moon. We will also be practicing the tricky words 'we' and 'are'.

Literacy – we will be reading 'How to Catch a Star' by Oliver Jeffers and will be writing sentences with our own ideas for how to catch a star. We will also be learning prediction with the help of Predicting Pip (from the Pawsome Gang)

Maths –we will be focusing on measuring this week. In Reception we use non-standard units of measure so we don't measure using rulers and tape measures but we do use cubes, counters, animals, pencils etc. We will be making playdough snakes and measuring them to find out which one is longest and shortest. We will also be measuring flowers and objects that we find in the classroom and outside. Our main focus when measuring is using the correct language i.e. longest, shortest, widest, tallest and comparing objects or pictures to order them by size.

Jigsaw – our Jigsaw focus for this term is 'Our Dreams and Goals'. This week we are making links between skills that we are learning and jobs that we may do in the future.

Music – This weeks lesson is called Witch Witch. The focus is on call and response, and we will be learning a simple singing game that uses a simple and repetitive four-note tune to support the development of pitch making.

PE – this weeks lesson is called Thembi Walks the Tightrope. We will be continuing to focus on balance and will be walking along a straight line on the ground and on a bench.

Handwriting –this week we will learn about one-armed robot letters and will focus on n & m.

Other – we will be adding all things that sparkle to coloured playdough to make different planets, will be going on a star hunt outside, will make rockets with junk modelling and explore different planets.

Reminders

- When getting changed after PE, we noticed that, although most PE kits are named, a lot of uniform isn't. It may be that name labels have fallen out as they do tend to do over time. Could you please check that all items of clothing are named? As you can imagine, it takes us a long time to get the classes changed for PE. It takes even longer when we have to try to find out which item of clothing belongs to which child when lots of them are unnamed.
- Mud kitchen – the children have been helping to make a pantry area in our mud kitchen and have been busy stocking it with lots of ingredients such as pine cones, acorns and beech nut shells. Last week we had some dried herbs and fruit teas in the mud kitchen which encouraged lots of great vocabulary as the children described the smell of the different herbs and teas. If anyone is having a clear out of their dried herbs or teas, please send them into school for the children to use. When the weather gets a little warmer, we will also be planting some fresh herbs to use in the mud kitchen. Again, if anyone has any spare herb plants, we would be very grateful for some.
- Could we please remind you to supervise children when dropping off and picking up please. We have had a few incidents recently where children have run round to classrooms with no adult to be seen and have seen children running towards the gate (and the road) without an adult. We will be reminding the children that they must stay with their grown up until they come into the classrooms.
- Wellies – sometimes children's wellies get wet on the inside and we need to bring them inside to dry overnight. We have a couple of spare wellies for children to borrow but they are quite small. If anybody has any spare wellies (size 9-13), we would be very grateful for donations.
- Reading – we have seen huge amounts of progress with a lot of the children's reading recently. Please remember to read with your child and/or use Bug Club every day – a little and often approach is the best way to improve confidence and fluency in early readers.