

9th November 2018

Fortnightly Focus Year R

Phonics: We have learned to recognise, sound and write the letters a, s, m, t, i, n, d, g, o, c, k, u. We have been practising recognising them and forming them correctly using rhyme cards (you will get a set of these home next Tuesday after the phonics meeting). We have also been practising blending and segmenting the sounds in CVC (consonant vowel consonant) words, e.g. blending p-a-t to pat and segmenting dig into d-i-g.

Maths: We have been practising recognising and describing shapes, including square, rectangle, circle and triangle. Some of us have been learning about hexagons, semi-circles, ovals and diamonds as well. Look out for shapes around your house – what shape are the windows etc? Describe a shape to your child for them to guess which it is. Some children are confusing rectangles and squares, you could point them out on your way to school or at home – talk about the difference in the length of the sides.

Squiggle While You Wiggle: The past few weeks our squiggles have been circles (to ‘Proud Mary’ by Tina Turner) and arches (to ‘Happy’ by Pharrell), spirals (to ‘Despacito’ by Justin Bieber)

Circles is preparing children for forming round letters including o, c, d, p, b, q, a. Encourage your child to practise drawing circles starting from the top of the circle moving in both clockwise and anti-clockwise directions. When we have been practising writing a and d, a lot of children have wanted to start from the bottom of the circle section, which means they finish in the wrong place for the rest of the letter.

Arches goes both over and under (like a rainbow and like a banana!!!), it prepares children for forming arched letters including r, n, m, u, v, w, y. When we practised in school most children were quite confident at doing over-arches (like a rainbow), but found under arches (bananas!) more challenging, so please practise these at home.

Spirals – Drawing spirals in and out in the air. These help the children form ‘looping’ letters: g, f, j, y.

Ideas To Support Your Child At Home: Red and green word lists have been sent home this week, please begin to practise these with your child, focussing on recognising them and then writing them. Practising spelling could be done with magnetic letters, foam letters in the bath or orally saying the letters, but do practise writing alongside this. You could try copying out the words and hiding them around the house for a hunt, matching the words on the word list with words in a book, or making a simple bingo game with the words. We understand that most children are at the very early stages of reading and writing and don’t expect these to be learned straight away, there is no set deadline or spelling test. Go with your child’s pace and don’t panic, it’s important that they are secure in their recognition and writing before they move on. When you feel your child is ready for the next set, let us know and we will check them in school.

General: Over the next fortnight we will be starting to send out your child’s words for the Christmas Nativity production. Please practise these with your child, cueing them in by reading the line before. There will also be letters sent home about costumes, please come to see us if you have any questions.

Next week we will be reading the Supertato stories and being invaded by the evil peas. Can you please send in some junk modelling materials so we can build traps. This could include cardboard boxes, plastic trays and yoghurt pots. We are unable to use toilet rolls and egg boxes, or packaging for nut or sesame based products in school. Please ensure any items of junk modelling are clean, with no remaining food!

Thank you for your support.
Mrs Moore Miss Scott