

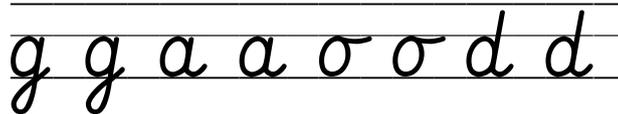
28th January 2019

Fortnightly Focus Year R

Phonics: We have been learning the letter sounds j, v, w, z and the digraphs ch and th. We have been practising applying our phonic knowledge by reading words and sentences and matching them to pictures, writing words with our new sounds and putting them into simple sentences. We have started using lolly sticks to help the children remember to separate each word with a finger space. If your child is a keen artist, encourage them to label what they have drawn, sounding it out using their 'robot arms'. We have also been learning to read and write the tricky words: I, no, go, to and the.

Maths: We have been working on counting larger groups of objects accurately and matching them to the right numeral. Lots of children are still finding recognition and writing of their teen numbers tricky – they often reverse the numbers, e.g. thirteen as 31, we talk about 1 being the bossy number. We are still finding that children lose accuracy in their counting when they have a group bigger than 12/13, encourage your child to practise counting things around the home – their toys back into the toy box, the number of steps up to bed, how many silver cars they pass on the way to school.

Squiggle While You Wiggle: This fortnight we have been practising the circle squiggle to 'Proud Mary' by ~Tina Turner. Lots of children are finding it difficult to start their circle at the top, which is important for correct letter formation. We have used our circle movement to help us learn to form the letters *σ*, *a*, *d* and *g*. We have talked about the different height of these letters, o and a are short letters, d is a tall letter and g goes 'below the ground' (under the line). Remind your child to always start from the left when writing and correct backwards letters – d is a particularly common one!



Ideas To Support Your Child At Home: We have been assessing the children's reading over the past fortnight and have noticed that while many children have developed confident blending skills, they are still sounding out nearly every word. When reading a new book take a couple of minutes with your child to point out 2 or 3 words that are repeated in the book; these might be character's names or words off their word list. Practise saying them together and ask your child to 'hunt' for these words in their book. Encourage them to read these words without sounding out, using lots of praise when they remember a word off by heart.

Thank you so much for all of the fantastic contributions you have made to your child's learning journal on Tapestry. It is really helpful, because there are lots of opportunities your child has at home that are difficult for us to recreate at school. We'd love to see tapestry updates about your child's physical activity outside of school; this might be riding their bike, scooting safely to school, going on a trampoline or a particular club they attend e.g. dance, football, rugby tots. Technology at home is often more advanced than tech in schools – updates about your child's skills on the ipad, mobile phone games, laptop, wii and xbox are really useful for us!

General: We are still quite short of junk modelling items, so please send in any boxes, yoghurt pots (washed out please!), lids, foil etc Please remember due to health and safety reasons, we are unable to use egg boxes, boxes for peanut based products (e.g. crunchy nut cornflakes) and toilet roll tubes in school. Thank you for your help!

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Moore

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