

# News from our first half term...

We have had a fabulous start to school this first half term and your little ones have settled incredibly well, making new friends, exploring and getting to know their teachers and staff around our school. It is lovely to see everybody coming into school with confidence and smiles, as they know that our school is a safe and respectful place to be. On occasions, some of our little ones can seem tired and weary by the end of the week and this is because they are such busy little bees during the school day. Actively learning, exploring and seeking new challenges is hard work!

## Early reading in Reception



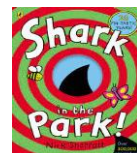
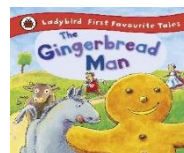
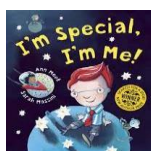
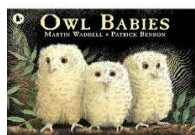
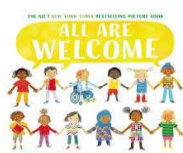
Our phonics, reading and early writing has got

off to a flying start and, pleasingly, we have

begun formal phonics sessions with the children, as we have assessed the children during the first couple of weeks. Sessions are short and snappy to introduce new sounds and revisit previously learnt sounds. We enjoy thinking of words beginning with our sounds and using our listening ears to tune in to hear sounds when Fred the frog is speaking! We have all had a go at writing these sounds too in different ways. Chalk on the big yard, writing in the air, sensory writing in the sand and with a pencil too are just some of the ways we try to form our letters. We have enjoyed lots of lovely books together too, with some of these stories shaping our literacy learning.



## 1,2,3...!



Our learning environment has endless opportunities for practical maths in play and this is observed continuously in the provision. Measuring in the sand, counting conkers on our autumn walk, comparing sizes of leaves, sharing out our snacks and morning registration are just some chances to apply everyday maths and mathematical vocabulary. We have been exploring all about numbers 1, 2 and 3 and have begun creating a numbers book for the children to

Be safe  
Be ready  
Be respectful



enjoy in their play, reinforcing their learning. It has been wonderful to hear your little ones' understanding of these numbers and then applying their new learning in their exploration and play. We want our children to have a deep understanding of the concept of number and are evidencing this through their play and their voice for now, until we are ready for more formal ways of recording.

## **Busy little bees!**

This half term has been all about establishing our routines and expectations in our class. We have done lots of learning around being safe, being ready and being respectful and chatted lots about how we can make sure our class is a safe and respectful place to be, full of children who are ready. It has been heart-warming to watch the Year 1 children guide our new starters and help them in our class and it is wonderful to observe shared learning amongst the children, across Year 1 and Reception.



We have loved getting to know our new starters and they have well and truly settled in our lovely school, with their characters and personalities shining through now. We have been noticing lots of their own interests too from superheroes, tractors, volcanoes, cutting and sticking and 'being at home' in the role play area. I have loved seeing our new starters explore books freely and they can be perfect listeners during shared stories together! This half term, we have explored our school grounds and looked out for signs of autumn, collecting treasures along the way, visited church for our Harvest Festival, recreated gingerbread men in the play dough area and made our very diva lamps for Diwali, all whilst learning where to peg our coats, find our name cards, eat lunch in the dining hall, make new friends and find time to play! A jam packed first half term for us all!



## **Wow Moments and SeeSaw**

SeeSaw is a great way for home and school to share learning and experiences. We have really enjoyed looking at your photographs and uploaded work and the children have a real sense of achievement when their work is shared amongst their friends. Please continue to send anything to share on here and particularly any 'WOW' moments from your child too to celebrate their achievements, both in and outside of school.

Next half term we will be continuing to learn more Set 1 sound in phonics and have a plentiful collection of books to enjoy! In maths we will be exploring 4, 5 and 6 and building these numbers. We will be creating some repeating patterns using our collected treasures from our autumn walks. Christmas in school is such a magical time and we will be learning all about the importance of this time of year and also thinking about what Christmas might be like on the other side of the world. We will be comparing toys from the past and how they differ from our toys we have today.

As always, please do not hesitate to catch me on a morning or at home time, should you have a quick query or message. If you feel like a longer chat is needed, I am happy to discuss anything with you before or after school and help wherever I can.

Thank you for your continued support,

Miss Todd

### **Need to knows, dates and other news...**

- Bikeability will start on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022**. This is a weekly session and will last for 5 weeks. A separate letter has been handed out with all details.
- The dates for our Christmas Nativity performances are Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Dec (afternoon performance) and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec (evening performance)
- PE is on a Monday and a Friday. Children should come to school in their PE kits.