



Reception Newsletter- Week beginning: 20.01.25



Term 3 topic- What happens in our world?

Our story of the week: - 'Handa's Surprise'

Another exciting and action-packed week in Reception! Read on to find out about all the great activities we have participated in this week.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development- We continue to try to use our Learning Muscles in all classroom and outdoor activities. We try our best to listen to and look after our friends, helping each other in a variety of situations. When playing with our friends we have been remembering to share, listen to each other and use kind hands and kind words. In Jigsaw this week we discussed never giving up until we reach our goal. We could think of lots of things that we found tricky at the start, but by practising and never giving up we managed to do it. How proud it made us feel. We are becoming very resilient.

Communication and Language- We have continued talking about different countries in the world, particularly Africa where this week's book is set. We have talked in small groups about what we know about Africa, looked at a map and chatted about photos of Africa. Each topic introduces the children to new groups of words and they increasingly experiment with and enjoy using these new words in their role play.

Physical Development- In PE this week we are continuing to practise our dynamic balance. In the classrooms we have enjoyed a variety of activities on our malleable tables to help strengthen our fingers and develop fine motor skills e.g. playdough, threading and carefully weighing fruit using a balance. It was a really tricky job weaving fruit baskets like Handa's. We had to have careful fingers for weaving in and out, but they look fantastic!

Literacy- We thoroughly enjoyed reading the book 'Handa's Surprise' and have continued to look at information books about our world. We are in our new phonics groups now every week, where we have been learning new phonemes and consolidating those we have learnt already. We are enjoying working at a pace which is right for us and being with our friends from different classes right across Reception and Year 1. In our classrooms we learnt how to write a list, helping Handa to decide which fruits to put in her basket. Would it be the red juicy mango or the soft yellow banana?

We enjoyed talking to our friends and using the stick puppets to tell them a story using the story map. It was tricky to remember the story. Please remember to read books daily / practise the letter sounds and try blending them together. Remember to write the title of your story book in the red reading record and to share your library book with someone at home!

Mathematics- This week we have been exploring weight and using vocabulary such as light, heavy, lighter, heavier, lightest, and heaviest. We made predictions about which object would be the heaviest and what would happen to the balance and then used our bodies as a balance. We also used a balance and were interested to find some objects that weigh the same. Weighing fruit this week has continued to provide us with challenges!

How can you and the lightest or the heaviest piece of fruit in a basket of balancing scales?



We also looked at capacity and thought about which different shaped containers would hold the most or the least.

Understanding the World- Our book this week is set in Africa and we have been discussing how it is different to where we live, being much hotter and drier. We have been lucky enough to taste different fruits from around the world, including, pineapple, mango, passion fruit, kiwi, papaya and avocado pear. Some of us discovered new fruits we like. The fruits all looked, smelled, felt and tasted different. We discovered some were sweet, some sour, some tangy and others were juicy or soft. Well done for trying new tastes everyone!

Expressive Arts and Design- We have made an amazing array of fantastic artwork from our book this week which will all be making its way home to you soon. We have used a variety of skills to create colourful, woven baskets, eye catching fruit printing, made fruit baskets and painted animals from the story. Please ask us about them. In Charanga this we continued to explore funk music, copying rhythms and playing keyboards and glockenspiels.

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Supporting learning at home

- Can you help write a shopping list?
- Can you try any different fruit at home, it's always good to try something new!
- Please continue to practise getting dressed and fastening zips and buttons!

Our top tips for reading this week!

- Practise recognising and writing your sounds every day.
- Retell a picture book story in your own words.

Notes for next week 27.01.25

- Please ensure your child has a warm winter coat, hat and gloves every day.
- Please send water bottles and reading books in book bags every day.
- Sign up to be a 'Mystery Reader' if you have not already.
- Please remember wellies and waterproofs every Friday for Muddy Puddles.
- The Book Fair takes place from Wednesday 5th until Monday 10th February.
- The Valentines Disco is taking place on Monday 10th, more information to follow
- School finishes at 3.15pm on Friday 14th February and Term 4 begins on Monday 24th February.

Have a lovely weekend!