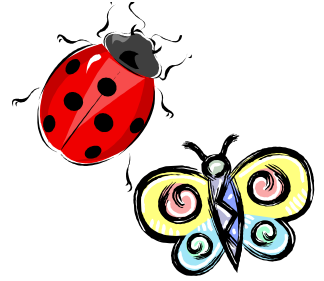




Sample Weekly Newsletter



Dear Parents,

Assessment Evening - Thank you to those of you who were able to join us for the Assessment evening on Wednesday. We shared information about the revised curriculum and assessment. We explained during the meeting that we were still waiting for final guidance about profile and assessment sheets. Miss Brammah, Mr Mortimer and Mrs Maguire attended a training course yesterday hoping for new information to support this, but no firm decisions have yet been made by the Government regarding the Foundation Stage Assessment Profile data and how it should be collated. When we have more information we will share it with you. In the meantime, we know the Early Learning Goals the children are working towards and are assessing against those statements and all the small steps leading up to them.

As parents, you are also part of your child's learning journey. This revised curriculum reminds us again that we work *in partnership* with parents and share information both ways about your child's interests and observations we all make. Each child has their own Learning Journal in school and we would like you to contribute to this to build a picture of your child. The Learning Journal is where we put photos and significant notes we have made about your child's learning for each area of the curriculum. If you do something special at the weekend (eg walk in woods, visit grandparents, bake, construct something really imaginative with Lego/Duplo etc) you may like to take photos or write a small note and share that with us; we can then put this in the journal. We will then make links with the Early Years Curriculum-for example when baking you might tell us that this is something your child loves to do and that they began measuring the ingredients, reading/recognising the numbers when weighing ingredients or counting out spoonfuls of flour (mathematical development).



Communication and Language - next week the children will be learning h, b, f, ff, l, ll and ss. The two letters together make the one sound. Additionally, we will teach the next two tricky words 'no' and 'go' and how to segment to spell. For example if a child wants to spell 'rag', we will be encouraging them to hear the first and subsequent sounds/phonemes and say them in the correct order, r-a-g. We have been doing this for some time and the children are gaining confidence to have a go at segmenting themselves.



Next week too, we will be assessing early writing. For some children this will be having a go writing their name. For others, it could be them having a go writing marks and telling us what those marks mean. Others may actually write initial sounds to represent words eg m c i b (my cat is black). Please remember that all children develop at different rates. Your child could be at *any one* of these stages.

We want our children to ask questions and be inquisitive and this week we have been

encouraging them to ask questions. The children asked some really good questions through the week - Why do we need to brush our hair? How do you make a pencil case? What makes a rainbow? Why do we need to eat breakfast? If your child asks any questions at home, please do take the time to answer them and let us have the questions for the learning journals - we can chat about them as a class!

Space, shape and measure this week we have covered, size and length. The children have engaged really well with both the language and being able to order and compare the different sized objects.

Next week, we will focus back on number-children making 10 (up to 20 for some children) in different ways. For example making 10 using sets of 3, 3 and 4 cubes and understanding that the total will always be 10; they will have neither added or removed, any cubes. We will use the terms separate, group, set and total. For some children this is quite a difficult concept and needs regular practise. It also gives them lots of opportunities to count accurately. They will be able to use small dinosaurs, farm animals, tiny dolls-their choice!

Changing reading books-if you would like your child's reading book changed, please will you leave the book and yellow reading record book in the tray in the classrooms?

Please note Please will you check white tee shirts and check that your child has the right one? We have misplaced one white tee shirt after having got changed for PE on Monday this week. Thank you

Parents Evening - Wednesday 7th Nov (early with crèche) and Thurs 8th Nov. The sign sheets for a 10 minute slot will be up outside the classroom on Monday morning. Please register your child at the office for the crèche if you need it. For parents who do not come into school (bus, out of school club, child minders) please ring school to make an appointment-thankyou.

Future date -Thursday 24th October - we are inviting you to come into our classrooms and share the Learning Journal with your child. Please feel free to stay from when you drop your child off until 9.30am. This will be a regular event-so if you cannot make this date, there will be more and we will let you know via this newsletter. Please note that at any time, you can take your child's learning journal home for a short time.

Home activity - the children might like to make a number line. This can be 0-10 or 0-20. They can use cut up paper to write the numbers on-wall paper is always great because it can be as long as they need it to be! If they want to make it glittery and shiny, brilliant. Children love it when their work is displayed and actually *used*. I am hoping that we can use the number lines they produce-waiting in anticipation.....!

Only one more week to breaking up next Friday. The children are ready for the half term break-they have learned so well through play and we are seeing great progress after only half a term in school.

Enjoy the weekend everyone. **Liz Maguire, Mandie Sharpe and Cheryl Duck**