

Reception News

05.12.25

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, the children have been fully immersed in our new space topic. We began by looking back at the questions they asked at the start of the term and exploring whether we can now answer them. The classroom transformed into "Space Camp" where children trained like astronauts, created their own solar system art, and worked together to build rockets for a mission to the moon. It was wonderful to see their imagination and teamwork grow alongside their knowledge!

On Tuesday, we explored the fiction story *Aliens Love Underpants*. The children learned what "fiction" means and discussed the author, illustrator and characters in the book. We then practised retelling the story in our own words. Children enjoyed creating their own aliens using cutting skills, and some even wrote sentences to describe them.

Wednesday's learning focused on patterns. We looked at AB patterns using colours, shapes and sounds, and children confidently predicted what would come next. They created patterned underpants inspired by the story, fixed mistakes in patterns, and even designed patterns of their own.

On Thursday, our maths continued with counting and recognising numbers up to five. We played counting games using our fingers and built towers with blocks. The children were encouraged to notice that the number of objects stayed the same, even if they were moved or knocked down. This helped develop their understanding of "stopping numbers" and one-to-one counting.

On Friday, we celebrated individuality. Children talked about their likes, hobbies and interests, and then drew pictures of something special to them. They shared their ideas with the group, showing growing confidence in speaking in front of others. We ended with our class mantra: "I am special. I am unique. I am important."

It has been a wonderful week of creativity, curiosity and confidence. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Weekly Phonics

Sounds of the week:

ng, nk

Tricky word of the week:

we me be

Next week will be a review week as we prepare for the Autumn 2 assessments. Please keep up with the practice of speedy sounds and tricky words. There is a copy of all taught speed sounds and tricky words so far as a reminder.

This week, the children continued to engage with activities that drew attention to the purpose of counting – to find out how many objects there were. Adults continued to name the objects being counted to emphasise the numerosity of the set, e.g., *Would you please collect 6 crayons and bring them to me?* The children revisited the concept of 1:1 correspondence by making sure that they matched collections of objects to their representations. They developed their understanding of the concept of cardinality – that the last number in the count tells us how many things there are altogether – and began to apply this concept to count more abstract things, such as claps and jumps.

The children also began to explore verbal counting to larger numbers. Counting together to numbers larger than 20 started to expose the pattern of number names beyond the tricky 'teen' numbers. Singing counting rhymes gave them opportunities to hear, join in with and develop their knowledge of the counting sequence. The children also had opportunities to begin to link quantities to 5 with their corresponding number and to explore conservation of number by investigating what happened to quantities of objects when they were rearranged.

Home Learning- Alien Design

Your home learning this week is to design and draw a picture of an alien. Let your imagination run wild; they can have 5 eyes, 3 arms and no legs. Once you have designed your alien have a go at labelling it. Remember your words do not have to be spelt correctly – you just need to use your phonics e.g., head may be spelt hed.

Look Listen and Note:

Can the children give focused attention?
Are the children confident to talk to others?
Are the children confident to speak in front of the group?

Do the children have a dominant hand?
Can the children hold a pencil with the correct grip?
Can the children hear and write the sounds in the words?

Can the children say what fiction means?
Can the children tell you the main events in the story 'Aliens Love Underpants'?
Can the children say what the word retell means?

What pattern can you see?
What pattern can you hear?
Copy my pattern – what do you hear?
Copy my pattern – what do you see?
How does the pattern continue?
What do we need to copy this pattern?
What pattern have you made?
What are you going to use to make your pattern?
What mistake can you see in my pattern?
How could you fix the mistake in my pattern?

Can the children show a number up to 5 on their fingers?
Can the children remember that the stopping number tells them how many there are altogether?
Can the children check a quantity by counting carefully to the stopping number?
Can the children count objects one by one as they build a tower?
Can the children tell that the number of objects stays the same even if they are moved or knocked down?

Can the children verbally tell a story?
Can the children take turns to act out a story?

Can the children explain what makes them unique?
Can the children talk about why it is good that people are different?
Can the children name things that they like?
Can the children explain how their favourite thing or hobby makes them feel?

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Harrison