

Reception News

15.05.26

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week in Acorn class, our learning took us deep into the jungle as we continued exploring our exciting theme, Rumble in the Jungle!

In Maths, the children focused on sharing objects equally. Using jungle animals and watering holes, they practised fair sharing and discussed what happens when there are leftovers. The children showed great problem-solving skills and worked carefully to make sure everyone had the same amount.

In Literacy, we enjoyed reading *The Mixed-Up Chameleon* by Eric Carle. We talked about camouflage and why animals blend into their environments to stay safe. The children loved creating their own camouflaged chameleons and experimented with colours and patterns to help them disappear into different backgrounds.

Later in the week, we became crocodile experts! The children explored non-fiction texts to learn fascinating facts about crocodiles, including their habitats, characteristics and how they hunt. They then created their own crocodile fact files, working hard to use their phonics, tricky words and sentence writing skills.

We also read *The Selfish Crocodile* and spent time discussing kindness, sharing and friendship. The children used wonderful oracy skills to retell the story and enjoyed acting it out together with their peers.

To finish the week, we began planning a special friendship celebration for our class. The children shared ideas for party games and snacks and designed thoughtful party hats for one another, carefully listening to their friends' favourite colours and patterns. It was lovely to see such kindness, teamwork and creativity throughout the activity.

We are very proud of all the children for their enthusiasm, imagination and growing confidence this week!

This week's activities provided experiences that helped the children to develop an understanding of the magnitude of numbers. Previously, the children have reasoned about the size of numbers through comparing sets of objects and identifying which set has more or fewer. This week, they have focused on ordinality: considering where numbers to 10 are in relation to each other. Through practical activities and games, the children reasoned about numbers and thought carefully about which is more or less. They used linear number tracks to play games that encouraged them to compare numbers that are far apart, near and next to each other. (For example, 10 is a lot more than 2 but 5 is only 1 more than 4.)

The children made connections between their experiences with counting 1-to-1 and subitising dice patterns, and the actions of rolling dice and moving themselves and puppets/soft toys along linear number tracks. Playing games where each equal space on a track is labelled with a different, sequential number will reinforce the order of numbers, and will begin to develop the children's understanding of the rank order of numerical magnitude (the idea that numbers are getting bigger as we move along the track) and of the linear increase in the numbers (the idea that each number on the track is 1 more than the previous number and 1 less than the following number). Playing track games also provided the children with practice in recognising numerals. These activities give the children experience of counting on from different numbers and supported them in continuing to develop their own 'mental number lines', a key building block for later mathematical knowledge.

Weekly Phonics

This week we have been looking at words ending in /ing/ /ed/ and /est/

E.g, morning, singing, bumped, helped, grunted, melted, softest, strongest

Tricky Words:

Out, today

Look Listen and Note:

Can the children explain what the word retell means?

Can the children retell the story of "The Selfish Crocodile"?

Do the children use and apply the new terminology we have been discussing?

Can the children use and explain the terms non-fiction, fiction, author, illustrator, character and title?

Can the children say what a story map is useful for?

Can the children tell you anything about a crocodile?

Can the children write an information book about a crocodile?

Can the children tell you anything about a poisonous frog?

Can the children think of their own ideas?

Can the children hear, say and write the sounds in the words?

Can the children form letters correctly?

Can the children read/ write any tricky words?

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Harrison and the Acorn Team