



Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear parents and carers

It was lovely to see so many of you for our harvest celebration, I'm sure you will agree that the children sang beautifully. A big thank you for all the harvest produce we received. This has been delivered to our local food bank and will help others.

As part of our Marvellous me topic, we have used Alfie's and Matilda's ideas to name parts of the body and find out about our bones; spine, skull, ribs, jaw. We have also learned how to keep our bodies fit and healthy by sleeping well, eating healthily, exercising, keeping our bodies clean including washing our hands, cleaning our teeth and blowing our noses. We have enjoyed sharing the marvellous me box each day and the children have been brave enough to stand up in front of their friends to talk about their favourite things. Sharing the story 'So Much' by Trish Cooke, has helped us to talk about family, as well as, joining in with the repeated language and even acting out the story with our friends.

During phonics this week we have introduced the children to the letters **g o c k** and the sounds that they make. We have continued to listen carefully to hear the first sound in a word and to think of things that start with the **g o c k** sounds such as; gggarden, oooctopus, cccat, kkkkite. At this stage it is not expected that children choose the correct **c/k**, but it is important that your child recognises that although the letters look different, they still make the same sound. We have begun to robot talk and you may have noticed your child walking around with robot arms as they try to segment/chop up words to hear the sounds. This skill is essential for your child to become a confident writer, so do please help them to practise this at home e.g. cat caaaaaat c-a-t. Remind your child to say the word nice and long to help them hear the sounds before chopping up the word.

In our number work we have continued to match numerals to amounts and to order our numbers whilst playing a variety of games. In doing so we have used our counting skills by moving the objects into a line as we count them and then counting to check we have been accurate. **"Move to count and count to check"** Many children are finding recognising their numbers tricky, so do please practise looking for and talking about numbers that you see each day. The national expectation at the end of the year is for children to recognise and order numerals to at least 20.

### Home Learning challenge

To copy the letters **g o c k** and have a go at writing your own. Please encourage your child to hold their pencil correctly as they do so. They can also draw pictures or stick in photos or objects that start with each sound. If your child is a reluctant writer, perhaps try writing these letters with sticks in mud or even on the beach. They could even paint the letters with water and brushes on the patio. You can email the school office a photo of their letter writing, so that we can share these at school and give a well earned sticker! We have included an I spy game for you to play together whilst out and about this weekend.

Thank you for your continued support, it really does make a difference.

The EYFS Ducklings' team ☺