



Thursday 19th October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Vicky, from the dogs trust, came in to talk to us about pets and how we should look after them. We met two lovely dogs called Noggin and Noodles and learned about how we should keep ourselves safe by asking before we stroke a dog, letting the dog sniff our hand before we stroke the fur the right way. We practised this; asking to stroke Noggin and Noodles. The dogs loved everybody's gentle hands.

During phonics this week we have introduced the children to the letters **ck e u r** and the sounds that they make. With the letters c and k, it is important that your child understands that sometimes when we hear ck at the end of a word we use both - **two letters, one sound**, such as rock pick neck sack. We have worked really hard on our blending and segmenting skills and have been practising;

- saying a word nice and long and then chopping up the word. "Cat caaat c-a-t" and choosing the right magnetic letters to match the sounds we hear to spell the word.
- listening carefully to sounds and blend/squash these together to hear words. D-o-g "dog"

In maths we have been naming 2D shapes; using the words **flat, straight, curve, corners, sides** to talk about them. We have continued to recognise and order numerals, counting carefully and using these skills to play many different games. You may wish to help your child explore some fun interactive number games on your tablets/computers at home:

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/ladybird-spots>
<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/gingerbread-man-game>
<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/underwater-counting>

Our new topic for the next half term is 'Once upon a time...' We will be sharing lots of traditional tales and your child's favourite stories as well as begin our own story making with cool actions. We have already asked the children what they would like to find out about/make/do and are sending home some of their ideas for you to chat about and add to. Please return the topic brainstorm on Monday 30th October, so that we can personalise learning for your child.

A big thank you for all the wonderful support that you give your child in following up and practising new learning. I have been most impressed with how well the children are linking the sounds to the letters we have learned so far. Your support really has made all the difference!

Home Learning challenge

To copy the letters **ck e u r** 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 or contain each sound.

We have also included a **name writing challenge**. We would like your child to practising tracing their name to encourage correct letter formation and then have a go at copying it. We hope that, with your support, your child should be able to write their name all by themselves. We have a superstar writer pencil for each child that completes the challenge!

We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable half term and we look forward to seeing you back on Monday 30th October.

The EYFS Ducklings' team ☺