



Friday 22nd September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you very much for encouraging your child's independence each morning. We are now nearly all coming into class without our family's help.

This week we have continued to use the independent learning board to choose our own activities because we are the 'Boss' of our own learning! We are learning to share and wait patiently for a toy and practising asking our friends; "can I have turn/go when you have finished?"

We are continuing to work on using our fingers to show how many, as we sing songs such as; 5 big hippos, 5 current buns and our favourite Hicky Pickety. We have been saying our numbers up to 20 each day and practising counting back from 10 to zero as we blast off in our rockets. Please support your child in saying their number names as they count stairs on their way up to bed, how many fruits in the bowl, how many cars they see passing etc. The list is endless so enjoy using your imagination!

Each day we have played sound games; listening for the first sound in a word such as b-ball c-cat d-dog p-pig. Some children learn to hear the sound by saying a word with you emphasising the first sound ffffffffish, mmmmmud. You can also practise this by putting a few objects in front of your child and playing I spy with my little eye, something beginning with (choose the initial sound of one of the objects) and they find to it to score a point.

During PE sessions we have balanced along a beam, moved in different ways such as hopping and jumping; skipping is proving a little more challenging, so you may wish to practise this at home.

Picture books have been sent home to all children. Please share this with your child in addition to the stories you may already read at home together. We will change these Monday, Wednesday and Friday or once your child has shared the book twice at home.

Top tips for sharing picture books:

- Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough.
- Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child. Try not to pressurise if he or she is reluctant.
- Try to read with your child on most school days. 'Little and often' is best.
- Talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, their favourite part. This will help them to develop good comprehension skills.
- When revisiting the book, encourage your child to add more detail, Think about what the characters might be feeling or saying (even give the character a voice!) and use story words to join the events together such as "once upon a time" "first" "and then" "next" "suddenly" "later on" "the end."

- Try to communicate regularly with positive comments and any concerns in your child's yellow reading record book. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading.

Word books will be sent home once your child is confident in knowing words are read from left to right across the page, can link sounds to letters of the alphabet and can blend sounds together to hear words. These skills are needed to read.

We have also sent home a cheque book of WOW slips for you to share all the wonderful learning that your child does with you and your family. This could be how your child has practised or persevered to master a new skill; been brave enough to try something new or felt proud of what they have done. We will put these wow moments in their Learning Journey.

Home Learning challenge

We would like you and your child, whilst you are out and about this weekend, to collect signs of Autumn such as; conkers, acorns, sycamore seeds, autumn leaves etc. so that we can explore these next week.



Mrs Cooper - Class teacher
Miss Williams - Teaching assistant

The EYFS Ducklings' team ☺

Please remember to send in a pair of named welly boots and a coat so that your child can play outside in all weathers.