



Friday 2nd November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have all had an enjoyable holiday and are ready for the term ahead.

It was wonderful to chat with so many of you at our parents' meeting this week. It was an absolute pleasure to celebrate your child's learning and share their next steps with you. Thank you!

During phonics this week we have introduced the children to the letters **h b f ff ll** and the sounds that they make. With the double letters **ff** and **ll**, it is important that your child understands that sometimes when we hear **l** or **f** in the middle or at the end of a word, we use both - **two letters, one sound**, such as **hill, puff, bell** and **cliff**. We have worked really hard on our blending (squashing sounds together) and segmenting (robot talking) skills and have been practising;

- saying a word nice and long and then chopping up the word to hear the sounds; "hat haaat h-a-t"
- choosing magnetic letters or writing the letters to match the sounds we hear to spell words
- sounding out letters and blending/squashing these together to hear words "b-i-g big"

In maths we have been finding **one more** or **one less** than a number up to 5, then 10 and up to 20 for some. To do this we have counted objects (including Cheerios!) adding one more or taking one away and then counting to find out how many. We have also explored what this looks like on the number line; counting forwards and backwards. We have focused on using the words; **more, less, fewer, same, add, take away** to talk about and compare number, challenging children with the question; *how do you know?*

In preparation for Bonfire night on Monday, we have used the computer to find out about why people remember Bonfire night and what they do to celebrate. During independent learning time some children have chosen to construct their own rockets with junk modelling materials, others have enjoyed creating blow painting firework pictures and most importantly, we have all talked about how to keep ourselves safe as people celebrate Bonfire night.

Well done to those who took on the name writing challenge. Many children can proudly write their names all by themselves and have earned their very own writing pencil! We are impressed with the way many children are now holding their pencil so smartly!

Thank you for returning your child's topic ideas for *Once upon a time*; this will help us to personalise their learning.

Home Learning challenge

To copy the letters **h b l f** and have a go at writing your own. Please continue to encourage your child to hold their pencil correctly as they do so. They can also draw pictures or stick in photos or objects that contain each sound. We have also sent home (attached to your child's reading book) the first set of tricky words: **the to no go I into**. They are called tricky words because we cannot sound and blend them. Please help your child to recognise these words. For those children who can already recall these quickly, their challenge is to practise writing these. A quick practise, little and often, is the best way to do this. Thank you for your continued support, it really does make all the difference!

The EYFS Ducklings' team 😊