



Friday 2nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to those who took your child on an Autumn walk, we have had great fun squishing blackberries, prizing open conkers, looking at different coloured leaves and rustling them. We have also introduced the words hard, soft, smooth, spiky, prickly, rough and bumpy to talk about the different textures as well as talk about growth and change. Some children have found it tricky to know the difference between soft/smooth. You can support the understanding of these new words by feeling a variety of objects and talking about the texture (how they feel).

SCAN ME

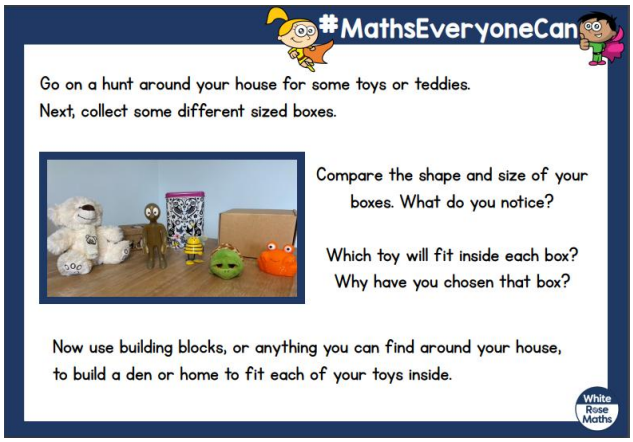
A big well done to everyone who has been completing the practical daily phonic challenges and sending these in. It really does make a difference and supports your child in becoming a confident reader and writer. During phonics this week we have introduced the children to the letters **g o c k** and the 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; ggggarden, 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 also begun sounding and blending to read words, scan the QR code to practise reading words. 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 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 to hear the first, middle and end sound.



Your child has also taken part in a group guided read. We shared the book 'The Pet Shop' and have let you know how your child's reading is progressing by using pink to highlight what your child can do successfully and green to show their next learning step. It is expected that you hear your child read daily; rereading their books to develop confidence. Your child's reading log should be signed by you each time they read at home. Every child that reads at home, at least 4 times a week, will earn a golden ticket. Mrs Martin draws a winning ticket in our celebration assembly on Friday where the lucky winner can choose their own book to keep as a prize!

In maths we have been developing our <u>maths vocabulary</u> to <u>compare</u> objects <u>by their size:</u>

Comparing size – **bigger smaller large little**
Comparing amounts – **more fewer (less) same amount**
Comparing mass – **heavier lighter balanced**
Comparing height – **taller shorter**
Comparing length – **longer shorter**
Comparing capacity – **full empty half full.**



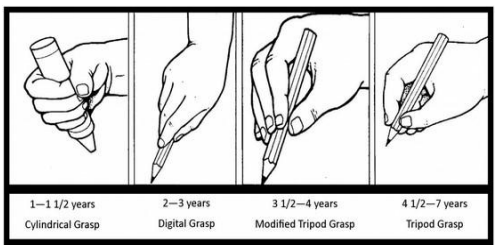
Perhaps you could have fun exploring measure at home and use the following questions to support your child.

- Which is smaller/bigger? How do you know?
- Which is taller/longer/shorter? How do you know?
- Which object is heavier? How do you know?
- Which object is lighter? How do you know?
- Are large objects always heavier than small objects?
- Which container holds more/the most? How do you know?
- Which holds less/the least? How do you know?
- Does this container hold more or less? How can you find out?
- Would the _____ fit inside the box?

In addition, we have had great fun exploring primary colours. Did you know that the primary colours; red, blue and yellow can be used to make secondary colours; orange, purple and green?

<u>Home Learning</u>

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 always email us 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 g o c k game for you to play together whilst out and about this weekend.



Wishing you all a wonderful weekend
The EYFS Puffins' team ☺