

Thursday 23rd October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Harvest celebration was a great success and the children sang beautifully. A big thank you for all the harvest produce we received. This will be delivered to our local food bank and will help others.

During phonics this week we have introduced the children to the letters **ff ll ss** and the sounds that they make. With the double letters **ff ss** and **ll**, it is important that your child understands that sometimes when we hear ll or ff in the middle or at the end of a word, we use both – two letters, one sound, such as **hiss puff bell moss cliff fill**. We call two letters that make one sound, a **digraph**. Scan the QR code to watch the alphablocks.

SCAN ME

In maths we have continued to explore 1, 2 and 3. We are beginning to understand that as we count, each number we say is 1 more than the previous number; noticing how numbers and amounts increase in value when 1 more is added. Exploring 1 less, children are beginning to understand that as we count back, each number is 1 less than the number before; noticing that when we find 1 less, the numbers and amounts reduce because we are taking 1 away. Time has been spent practically investigating the key concept that all numbers are made up of smaller numbers, and these are referred to as the parts of the number. Learning to see a whole number and its parts at the same time is a key in children's number understanding. Using practical equipment, we have explored different ways to partition a whole number, so we can find different parts which make the same whole. For example, 3 can be composed of 2 and 1 more but 3 can also be composed of 1 and 1 and 1. Scan to watch the numberblocks explore the numbers inside other numbers!

Key Questions to support your child when exploring numbers:

- How many different ways can you make 1/2/3?
- How can you show 2/3 in a different way?
- Can you make the same number in a different way?
- What is 1 less than ... ?
- What is the number before ... ?
- What is 1 more than ... ?
- What is the number after ... ?

SCAN ME

Our new topic for the next half term is called 'All Creatures Great and Small.' We will be naming, grouping and learning about the habitats of many different animals that we will meet in both stories such as The Emperor's Egg and Handa's Surprise, as well as non-fiction texts. Attached is a topic leaflet to share next term's learning with you. We have also included a topic word mat to support you in helping your child to become familiar with the vocabulary that they will need to be able to talk about animals, their features and their habitats.

Home Learning

A name writing challenge. We would like your child to practise 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 with the correct letter formation. We have a superstar writer pencil for each child that learns to write their name independently and will celebrate this in assembly!

In preparation for our new topic, we are asking you to take on a family challenge of creating something for our *All creatures great and small* topic.



This could be a junk model animal that you construct from recycled materials, salt dough animal prints, animal sock puppet, a shoe box habitat or even get creative using natural materials such as sticks and leaves to make a collage. Be creative, the choice is yours!

We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable half term, and we look forward to seeing you back on Monday 3rd November.

Team Puffins ☺

We value our parents as partners. Please leave a comment on any aspect of your child's learning. Things they are enjoying, new learning that they may have shared with you or things that they may be finding tricky.

My child's name: Date: