Friday 20th March 2026

EYFS Weekly Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

🌍 Understanding the World

This week the children have continued to explore the world around them through hands-on investigation, careful observation and rich discussion. As part of our topic learning, we also discovered the incredible story of **Mary Anning**, one of the most famous fossil hunters in history.

The children learned **who Mary Anning was, where she lived**, and the amazing work she did along the **Jurassic Coast**. They were fascinated to discover that she lived in **Lyme Regis** and spent much of her life searching for fossils on the beach cliffs.

There was great excitement when the children saw the size of the **complete ichthyosaur — or "fish lizard" — fossil** she became famous for finding. We heard many gasps as the children compared its enormous shape to modern sea creatures and imagined what the world might have looked like millions of years ago.

This learning links beautifully with the children's growing understanding of history, science, and discovery, and they have shown fantastic curiosity throughout the week.

🔤 Phonics Focus

In phonics, we revisited the sounds **or**, **ur**, **er**, and **ow**, with a particular emphasis on writing our **own sentences** using these sounds.

The children explored spelling patterns such as:

- **ur** often appears in the *middle* of words
  → *turn, curl, burp*
- **er** often appears at the *end* of words
  → *her, bigger, tower*

We rehearsed sentences aloud, counted the words, segmented each one carefully, and remembered important skills such as using **finger spaces**, **capital letters**, and **full stops**.

We also practised reading our new tricky words: **so** and **do**.

The children's confidence in using their phonics independently continues to grow—well done, everyone!

📏 Maths in the Classroom

In maths, we revisited **doubling** and learned that a double means *twice as many*. The children enjoyed spotting doubles on **dice** and **dominoes**, and practised doubling by **adding the same amount again**.

Most children can now recall doubles up to **double 5**, such as:
→ *double 2 is 4, double 5 is 10*

This week, we challenge you to explore doubles up to **double 10** at home!

We also investigated **odd and even numbers**:

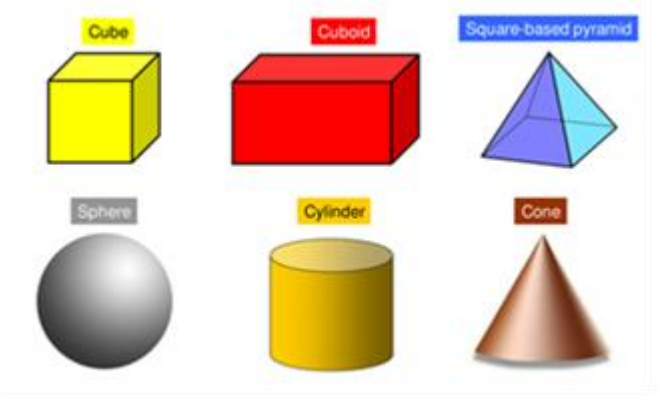
- **Even numbers** make pairs
- **Odd numbers** have an "odd one out"
- Even numbers can be shared **equally** into two groups

The children used counters, cubes, and even their own shoes to test and sort numbers—great teamwork and reasoning all round!

Home Learning Challenge

3-D Shape Hunt

Next week we begin our new unit on **3-D shapes**, and we would love you to take part in a fun **shape hunt** at home.

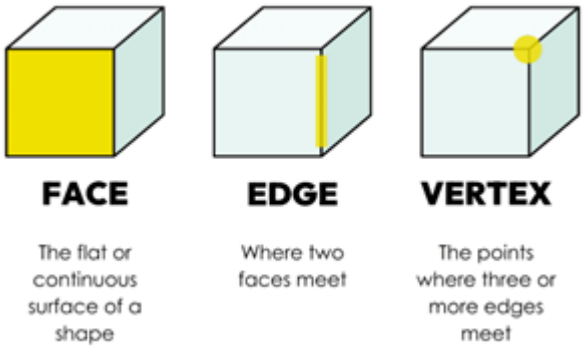


Encourage your child to explore different rooms—especially the kitchen cupboards! —and collect objects of different shapes. Talk about what you notice:

- How many **faces** does the object have?
- Are the surfaces **flat or curved**?
- Does it have **edges** or **vertices**?
- Which shapes look similar? Which are different?

After collecting their items, ask your child to **sort** them into groups. This might be by shape, size, colour, material, or any category they choose.

Support them to explain their reasoning:
"I sorted them this way because…"
"Another way I could sort them is…"







Encourage the use of shape vocabulary such as **sphere, cube, cuboid, cylinder, cone** to deepen their understanding.

We hope you have lots of fun exploring shapes together!

Team Puffins