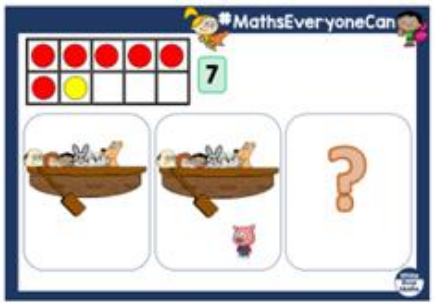


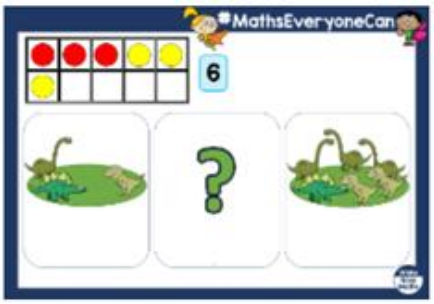

Friday 8th May 2026

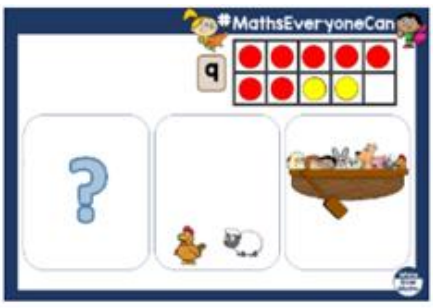
Ladybird week! We have shared some lovely books including; the bad-tempered ladybird, what the ladybird heard; creating our own maps, the lazy ladybird; thinking about what the lazy ladybird would say to each animal and writing our own speech bubbles. We even painted our own ladybird pebbles. In addition, we have shared non-fiction books about ladybirds and recalled facts about them. We found out that gardeners love ladybirds because they eat aphids and that sometimes people call them ladybugs or lady beetles. Did you know that ladybirds hibernate? Ask your child how they know that ladybirds are insects.

In phonics have continued learning to read and spell words with letter blends or sometimes known as "consonant clusters" at the start of a word **st tr dr gr cr br fr bl fl gl pl cl sl sp tw sm pr sc sk sn**. These are not new sounds, but single sounds that are blended closely together. Clusters are easier to read, but more challenging to write because we need to listen carefully when sound talking (segmenting). We have continued to practise reading some new tricky words: **out one were there here**. We have also learned to read some new common decodable high frequency words: **from went just help it's children** – we can sound and blend these! Ask your child what an apostrophe is. It is expected that your child should be able to read and spell these by the end of the reception year, so please take time to practise for 5 minutes each day.

During maths we have introduced **FIRST THEN NOW** stories to support our understanding of addition e.g. **First** there were 6 characters in Mr Gumpy's boat. **Then** 1 more got in. How many are there altogether in the boat **now?** We have used ten frames to represent this. We then investigated how to work out how many were added when we knew how many we had first e.g. **First** there were 3. **Then** some were added and **now** there are 6. We also explored how many there were first when 2 more were added and now there are 9.



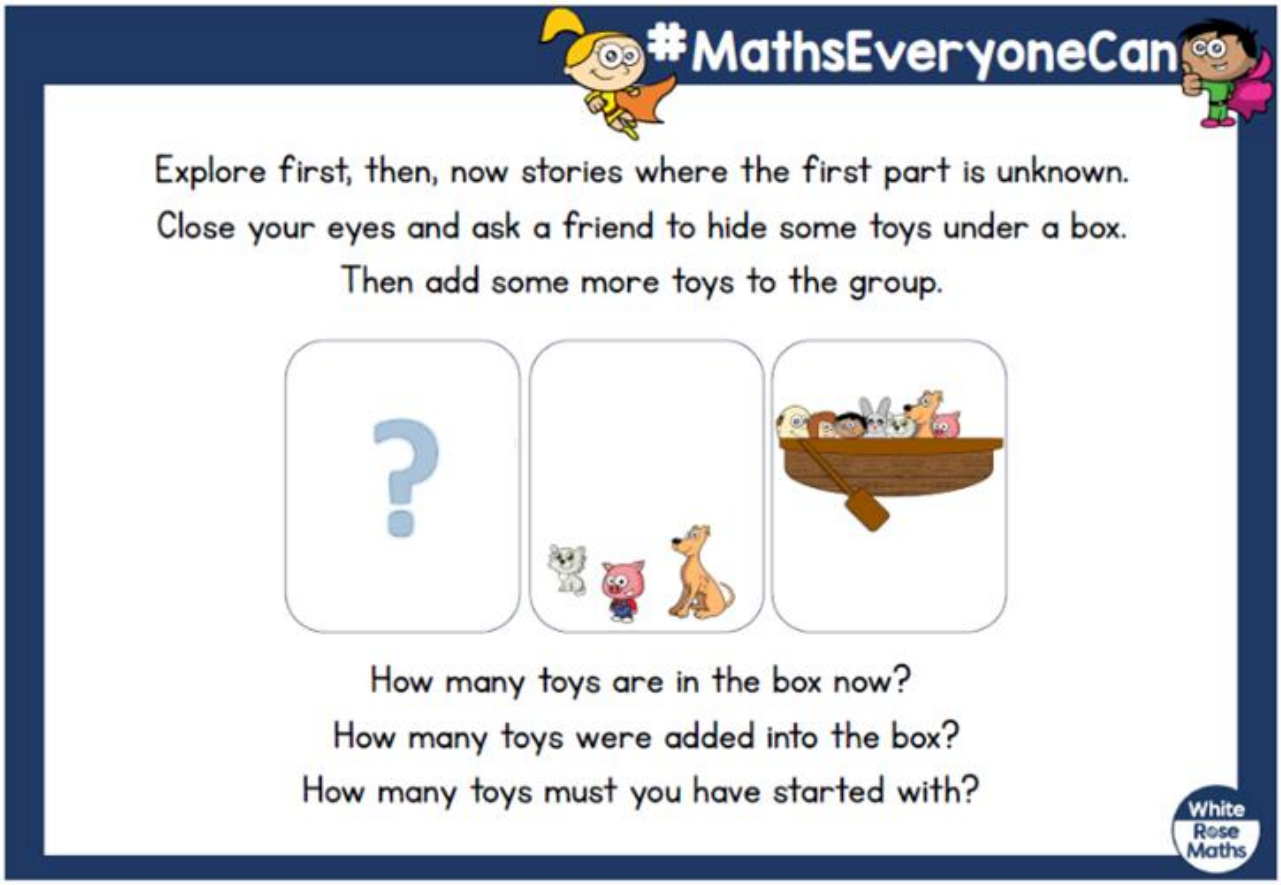




**Home learning challenge:**

Maths: First Then Now stories

Explore first, then, now stories where the first or then part is unknown.




Enjoy the weekend.

Team Puffins