

Foundation Stage News

November 25th 2022



A super sticky story!

Our week began by sharing the wonderful rhyming story, 'Stick Man' by Julia Donaldson. The wonderful wintry illustrations sparked a discussion about the season of winter and the changes that happen at this time of year. The weather certainly performed for us this week with a chilly drop in temperature and some gusty winds. The children noticed that the leaves and twigs are rapidly falling off the trees leaving them bare.

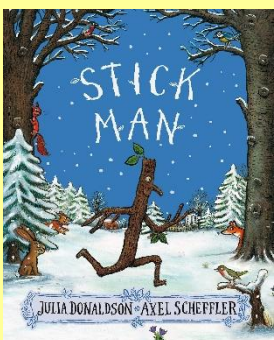
The fallen twigs and sticks brought in from home came in very useful for some creative learning. A mysterious Stick-lady appeared in class with a speech bubble which read "I am lost." (This also reinforced our Red Word learning – see Read Write Inc. below).

The children decided to use their sticks to create some stick friends. They chose their own materials from the art studio to decorate their character, thinking carefully about how they would join the materials together.

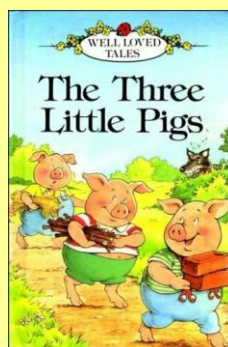


Books we shared this week

Each week we will share a collection of quality books with the children. They may be stories or information books. We try to link our books to the different areas of learning to help the children to deepen their understanding and to broaden their vocabulary. We also choose stories with no obvious link, just for pleasure. Below are the books we have shared this week. It is always good to revisit these books at home so that you can have conversations with your child about their experiences in school. If you do not have these books at home you may be able to find them at your local library or often there are video versions by searching the title on YouTube.



'Stick Man'
by Julia Donaldson



'The Three Little Pigs'

To support the children's mathematical understanding, we have enjoyed a few different versions of this story over the course of the week. Why not try telling this story together with your child using drawings or small toys. In Number time when learning about matching quantity, we made sure each of our three pigs had a matching number of objects to take with them to their new homes.

Songs we have sung this week

Here are the songs we have enjoyed this week. Please click on the links below to go to a YouTube version. You might also find your own alternative versions which the children will love to sing with you.



[I'm a little snowman](#)



[Snowflakes, snowflakes](#)



Top-secret!

We only have a couple of songs to share with you this week as we have begun to learn the special top-secret songs we will perform for you at our Christmas Show on 15th December. We hope it will be worth the wait!

Number time this week

We have been focusing on comparing quantity this week and have been encouraging the children to use the following words to describe what they have seen:

more than

fewer than

equal

Through playful activity, the children have learned how to use 'matching of objects' to compare quantities. We enjoyed the fun games of 'Grab it' and 'Hungry Dinosaurs' to practise this skill.

Hungry Dinosaurs

Each player needs three hungry dinosaurs, a dice and a bowl of counters.

Roll the dice for each of your dinosaurs. Count out the matching number of counters (dino food) for each dinosaur. Carefully lay the counters out in front of each dinosaur so you can compare how many each one has.

When all three dinosaurs have been fed, use your comparing words to describe the quantity e.g. The green dinosaur has more than the brown dinosaur. The yellow dinosaur has fewer than the brown dinosaur. The red and the blue dinosaurs have an equal number.



Silly soup writing

As part of our phonics learning, we had lots of fun pretending to make 'Silly soup' this week with some bonkers ingredients such as a hat, a map, a pig and a jug! The children chose what they wished to put into their soup and used their super 'Fred Fingers' to hear the sounds in the word to write a list of their ingredients (Just a reminder - Fred our Read Write Inc. frog speaks in sounds rather than words i.e. he says c-a-t for cat).

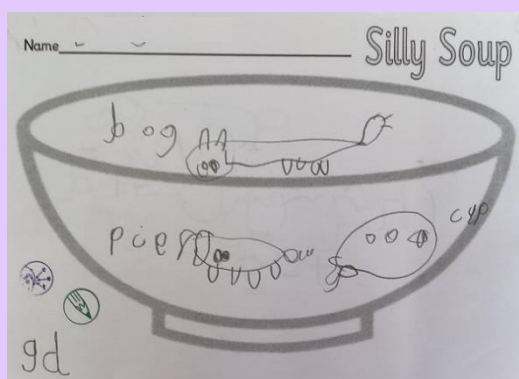
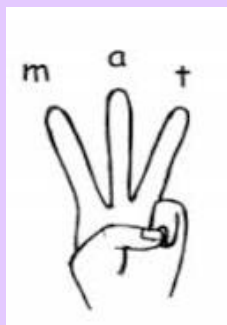
The children are all at differing stages of hearing sounds in words. Some children are learning to hear the sound at the start of a word e.g. c for cat, whilst others are learning to hear the sounds in all positions (beginning, middle and end) e.g. c-a-t. When practising spelling in Reception we use simple three letter words containing a consonant-vowel-consonant e.g. man, dog, pig, hat, sun. You may hear these referred to as 'cvc words'. Please see the video links below to give you an idea of how we are encouraging early spelling and writing of words.

[Hearing the Initial letter activity](#)



[Spelling simple words](#)

It was so exciting to see the children begin to apply their super writing skills as they wrote the sounds they could hear. Our Read Write Inc. letter charts were a great help - the letter formation story pictures with the letters helped them to remember the shape. When you are practising writing with your child at home, encourage them to use their little green Speed Sounds book in the same way to help them remember the shape and formation pattern for each letter.

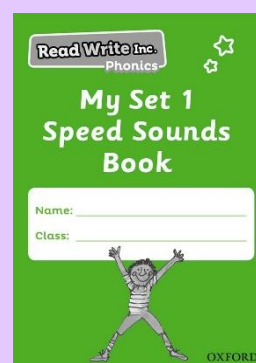


Read Write Inc. Phonics Desktop Speed Sounds Chart

Speed Sounds Set 1

m	a	s	d	t
i	n	p	g	o
c	k	u	b	f
e	l	h	sh	r
j	v	y	w	th
z	ch	qu	x	ng nk

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Below are links to a Read Write Inc. video which you can watch with your child to reinforce the sounds they learned last week. They will be proud to show you what they have learned. The following links will be accessible for 10 days. [Letter y](#) [Letter w](#) [Letter z](#)

We have also introduced the sound 'sh' as in 'ship' or 'fish'. We refer to this as a 'Special Friends' sound, telling the children that two letters have made friends and together they make only one sound. [Special friends th](#) [Special friends ch](#)

Next week we will be teaching the following letters: x and special friends 'qu', 'ng' and 'nk'.

In our phonics sessions, the children have enjoyed listening to Fred the Frog speak in sounds and are getting confident at hearing the words he is trying to say by blending the sounds together in their heads. They have also begun learning to make these words using magnetic letters or letter cards and then using 'Fred Talk' to read the words. You can practise this at home with your child using the video links below.

[Learning to Blend 3](#)

[Learning to Blend 4](#)



You might have some letter cards or magnetic letters your child can use to make their own words. Remember to say to your child "Fred Talk...read the word" before they begin to read each word. Saying 'Fred Talk' reminds them to say the sound for each letter, pointing to each with their finger as they do so. Saying 'Read the word' reminds them to then go back and say the whole word whilst sweeping their finger from left to right underneath the whole word. Click on this link [Sound Blending](#) to see an instructional video to support you to practise blending with your child. If you notice your child is finding this a little too tricky, please use the links below to practise the skill of oral blending (this is hearing the sounds in order and blending them together to make the word).

[Fred Says Feelings 1](#)

[Fred Says Weather 1](#)

Red Words

In our Read Write Inc. phonics this week the children also learned about 'Red Words'. When they progress to reading simple sentences, these words will be printed in red to help them spot them. A 'Red Word' is an irregular word. This means we cannot use 'Fred Talk' to read it as there is a letter or more in the word which does not follow the phonetic code e.g. when we say the word **put** the middle sound is an 'oo' sound, however when this word is printed, it contains an 'u'. We tell the children the 'u' is a tricky letter.

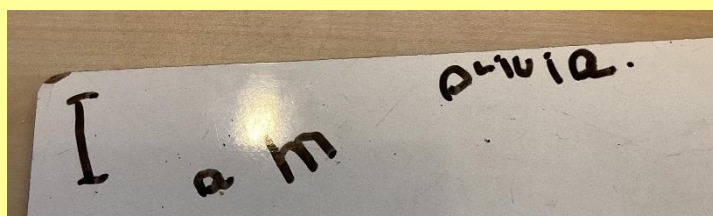
Before we read our Red Word cards, we remind the children **"You can't Fred a Red."**



This week the Red Word we learned to read and write was

I

We used this word in a short sentence saying our names e.g "I am Miss Watkinson." Then we had a try at writing this short phrase leaving a finger space between our words so they didn't bump together.



It's showtime!

You will hopefully all have received our Christmas flyer outlining the exciting events planned for our Reception children throughout December.

Christmas is coming to Reception!

We have some super exciting events coming up for our Reception children as we head into December. Thanks to our wonderful PTA the children will be enjoying a Christmas film afternoon, a Christmas disco and if we are very good, a special visit from you know what! More information to come! Also, thanks to recommendation from one of our lovely Reception parents, we are also expecting a visit from children's author Clare Helen Welch (and we hope her new story van too!)

We also have a few exciting dates for your diary....

Christmas Party Day
Monday 5th December

You child can come to school wearing a Christmas Jumper on this day. They will enjoy a delicious Christmas lunch thanks to our wonderful catering team which you will be able to order as usual. In the afternoon there will be fun and games at our festive party!

Reception Christmas Crafts Afternoon
Tuesday 12th December from 1:30pm to 3pm

We would like to invite you to come and join your child in Reception for an afternoon of Christmas craft making. There will be a variety of activities available in the Foundation classrooms for you to choose from with your child and they will be able to take their creations home with them afterwards. Please can we ask that only one adult per child attends as space in the classrooms is limited.

On the day the lower gate will be opened just prior to the event to welcome you in.

Reception Christmas Show
Thursday 15th December from 1:30 to 3pm

We would like to invite our Reception parents to come and see a little Christmas performance from the children in our school hall. Please come and enjoy a mince pie and a festive drink in the school hall before the show begins - a lovely opportunity to meet other Reception families.

1:30pm - Mince pies and a festive drink
2pm - Reception Christmas Show

For fire regulations, we ask that no more than 2 adults per family attend please.

We have begun rehearsing for our Christmas show (to be held in the school hall on Thursday 15th December from 1:30pm) and the children are already super excited for their big day.

We will be making some special festive props for the children to hold or wear during the show. Ideally, we would really like them all to be wearing plain black clothes for the performance e.g. black t-shirt/top/jumper, black joggers, leggings or tights. A printed item of black clothing could be worn inside out. We would also like them to wear their plimsols during the show if you have not already sent a pair into school.

We would like you to send your child's outfit into school in a named bag by **Friday 9th December** so we can hold a dress rehearsal early the following week. As always, please ensure each item you provide is clearly named.

Please come and speak to us if you have any queries about this.



Your response required!

You should by now have received a notification from us seeking your consent for your child to be included in our Nuffield Early Language Intervention LanguageScreen assessment. There will be a link for this in your emails, and only requires a very quick response. Many thanks to those of you who have already responded.

Have a lovely weekend!