

Foundation Stage News

November 4th 2022



Autumn Festivals

It was a super fun start back to school after the half-term break and the wind and rain didn't get in our way. The children were bubbling with news about their holiday adventures and excitedly shared their plans for Halloween – we used this as a great opportunity for speaking and listening, specifically focusing on the skill of taking turns to talk.

Through stories, images and video, the children have learned about the Hindu festival of Diwali.



They learned that little lights called Diva's are laid out in a row along the windowsill in Hindu homes to bring good health and wealth. We did some careful counting to see how many candles there were. There are so many opportunities for your child to practise their careful counting in everyday life. Please click on the following link to see our [Careful Counting Collectable](#) so you can reinforce the key skills at home.

Hindus also create patterns to decorate their homes called 'Rangoli.' The children have used objects and 2D shapes to create a variety of repeating and non-repeating patterns of their own which you can find on our gallery page below.



To find out more about this wonderful festival, please follow this link to a Cbeebies video which we have also shared in school. [Cbeebies Let's Celebrate Diwali.](#)

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.



[5 little ghosts](#)



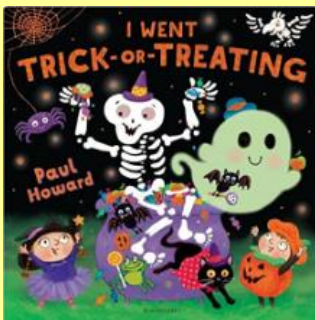
[The Skeleton Dance](#)



[5 Creepy Spiders](#)

Books we shared this week

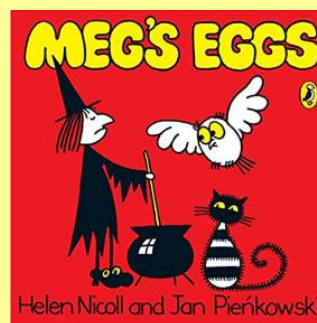
Each week we will share a collection of quality books with the children. They may be stories or information books. We try to link our books to the different areas of learning to help the children to deepen their understanding and to broaden their vocabulary. We also choose stories with no obvious link, 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.



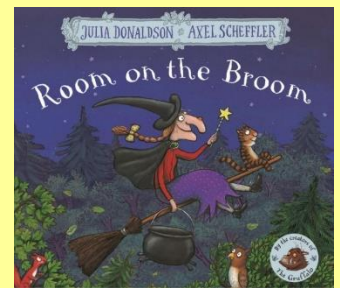
'I went Trick or Treating' by Paul Howard



'Meg and Mog' by Helen Nicoll and Jan Pienkowski



'Meg's Eggs' by Helen Nicoll and Jan Pienkowski



'Room on the Broom' by Julia Donaldson

Read Write Inc. Phonics



Last week we taught the letters g, o, c and k. Please use the links below to revise these letters at home if your child is not yet secure in recognising and saying the sound for each letter: [Letter g](#) [Letter o](#) [Letter c](#) [Letter k](#)

Next week, in our Speed Sound session, we will be teaching the children to recognise the shape and sound of each of the following letters: u (on Monday), b (on Tuesday), f (on Wednesday), e (on Thursday), l (on Friday).

Below are links to a Read Write Inc. video which you can watch with your child. They will be proud to show you what they have learned. The following links will be accessible for 10 days. Please wait until the day each letter has been taught in school before sharing the video at home:

[Letter u](#) [Letter b](#) [Letter f](#) [Letter e](#) [Letter l](#)

Fred Talk Game:

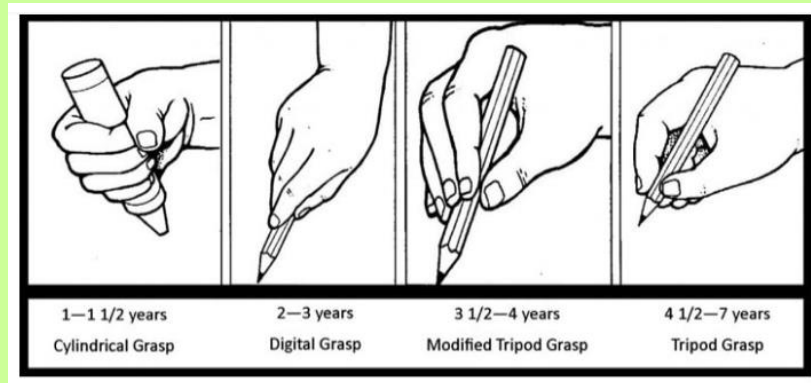


Fred the frog cannot speak in words, only in sounds. The children listen as he says the sounds in order to make a word (oral blending). Please follow this link to a Fred Game you can play at home this week. [Fred Says Colours](#)

Learning to write – holding a pencil

It is so exciting to see your children begin their journey of learning to write. This is a challenging skill for young children as it requires a lot of skills all at once.

In school we are encouraging your child to develop a comfortable and efficient pencil grip. The image below shows the developmental stages children typically go through as their learn to hold a mark-maker.



The most efficient grip for writing is the 'Tripod Grasp' where the pencil is held between the thumb and the first two fingers. Children will achieve this grip when they are physically ready. In school we have a little exercise to help your child find the fingers they need to use. We pretend that our thumb and first two fingers are a 'snappy crocodile', tucking the ring and little finger away, and snapping them together in the air. Please see the demonstration video on our 'Reception Learning Prompts' page by clicking this link:

[Snappy Crocodile Fingers](#)



Before children can effectively form letter shapes, they need to first have a good range of movement, coordination and control in their whole body.

They need good rotation in their shoulders and must have strength and dexterity in their hands and fingers.

Every day in school we provide a variety of activities which promote these skills. More to follow over the next few weeks.



Change to Reception PE days

We apologise for the early change in arrangements, however PE days for Reception will now be on a **Monday** and **Friday**. As before, please send your child to school on these days in their PE kit (a named pair of plimsolls to be kept in school).

On Mondays, Mr Mayling will be delivering a PE session in our school Hall. Depending on the length of the activity, this will be either for all children or for half of the cohort. If your child does not work with Mr Mayling the first week, they will have a session the next.

On a Friday we have asked your child to come to school in kit as we deliver a music and movement session. Some weeks this may take more of a musical form, other weeks this may be dance. Wearing kit enables us to be flexible and ready to offer a more active session.

Physical Development takes place every day in Reception, not necessarily in the form of a traditional PE lesson. Through a variety of indoor and outdoor activities we are developing your child's fine and gross motor skills. Below is an excerpt from our St Margaret's Reception Handbook:

Physical Development

Physical development is about improving the children's skills of coordination, control and manipulation in fine and gross motor movements. Children are provided with a range of tools, objects and mark makers of various sizes to enable them to develop their control and understanding of safety. Continual access to the outdoor environment allows the children the space to play and experiment with larger resources. Through stories, play and real-life their understanding of self-care and of the benefits of having a healthy and active life are developed.



Reading at home

You will no doubt have seen your child has brought home a zippy reading wallet in their book bag this week. Inside there is a letter providing you with a little more information about this pack. Please ensure this zippy wallet is kept inside their book bag every day for them to bring to school.

As we move through this half of the Autumn term, we will be teaching your child to blend to read simple words using the letters they have learned (more information to follow). As soon as they become confident with this, we will introduce books containing simple words for them to practise this skill at home.

Please do let us know how they are getting on at home by making brief notes in the diary.

Our Learning Gallery!



Firework art,
creating marks in
the paint with
different objects.



Making our own
Rangoli shape
patterns.



Collecting treasures from the
spider's web using tweezers.



Spooky
shape
pumpkin
faces!



Have a lovely weekend!