

Foundation Stage News

November 11th 2023



Remember, Remember.....

We have had a lovely week themed around bonfire night and remembrance day and the children have loved sharing their experiences and knowledge about these very special days.

Using black paper and pastels the children have enjoyed making marks that resemble bright and colourful exploding fireworks. The children have also enjoyed creating their own transient art this week – creating poppies using the correct colours out of various loose parts. Through painting their own poppies the children have developed their painting skills with a particular focus on taking extra care to ensure the colours do not merge together. The children had to ensure they washed their brushes thoroughly when changing colours and worked hard to follow the outline of their pictures with precision. There are some beautiful examples of our art work in the Learning Gallery below. You will see some wonderful budding artists!

At home you might like to continue the discussion around these events and there is also a lovely video on CBeebies about remembrance day that we have watched with the children this week. Here is the link:

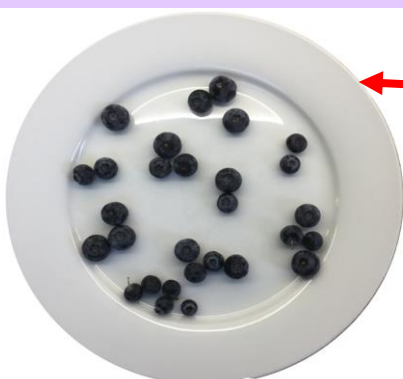
[BBC iPlayer - Poppies](#)



In Maths this week

This week the children have been learning to quantify a set of objects by subitising, rather than counting. When subitising, children can say how many there are in a small group of objects by 'just seeing' and knowing straight away without the need to count. This week we have explored identifying groups of 2 and 3 in different arrangements, including using our fingers to show these amounts. Subitising is a really important skill in helping children to develop their early number sense. Below is a link to a fun game to help your child practise their subitising skills!

[Numberblocks - See the Amount \(bbc.co.uk\)](#)

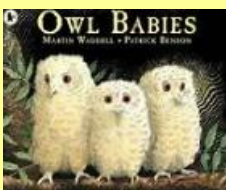


Subitising Challenge

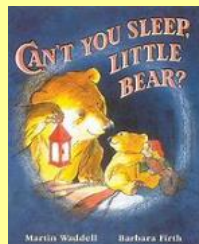
Look at the picture of blueberries on a plate and can you be number hunters of 1, 2 and 3? Sometimes 1, 2 and 3 are hiding in bigger numbers. Talk about which numbers you can see. Try to encourage your child to spot the numbers without counting.

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.



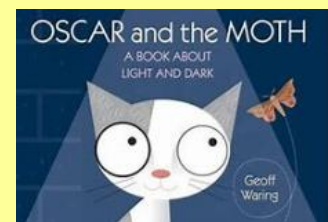
'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell



'Can't you Sleep Little Bear' by Martin Waddell



'Night Monkey, Day Monkey' by Julia Donaldson



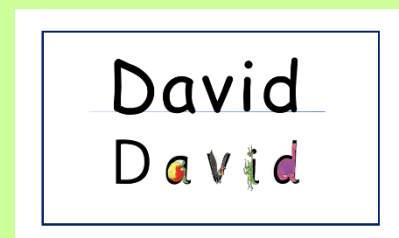
'Oscar and the Moth' by Geoff Waring

Read Write Inc. Phonics



This week your child has been working in smaller phonic groups to help them work on their next steps in their learning. For some groups it has been important to consolidate previously taught letter sounds to help them recall these letters with ease and speed. Some groups have learnt some new letter sounds and are beginning to practise blending these sounds together to read simple words. Please remember all children develop with these skills at their own pace and some just need a little longer to practise and embed their new learning. You will find the links for your child's phonics learning this week attached to the same email as this newsletter. Please remember if your child is revising previously taught sounds we will not have included any new sound cards in their book bag so please continue to practise the ones you already have. You may wish to reduce the number of sounds in their pack if there are quite a few that your child is not yet confident with. Please come and see us if you have any concerns or questions.

Name Writing



We have also been very busy in school practising our name writing skills with our wonderful new name cards. The children all wanted to take them home so we have printed an extra copy and popped them in your child's book bag so you can practise writing their name at home too. We know the children are very excited to show you their special card!

PE Reminder

This week we have had our first PE session in the hall with Mr Mayling. The children absolutely loved being active and learnt how to use such a large space safely, including making sure they listened carefully for the instructions given. They practised finding spaces and moved in a range of ways to these spaces. They galloped, hopped, jumped, jogged, skipped and even moved sideways like a crab!

Please ensure your child comes to school every Wednesday wearing their PE kit. This includes dark coloured jogging bottoms, trainers/plimsolls, a PE t-shirt and their school jumper. This ensures your child can move easily and comfortably in our PE sessions.

I know the children are super excited for some more PE next week!

Parents Evening

You may have noticed that the main school are holding parents evening in November. In Foundation Stage we like to hold our parents evenings a little later. This gives us additional time to get to know your children, to see how they respond to what we are teaching them, and how best to support them in their learning journeys. For this reason, we will be holding our parents evenings in January - date to follow soon.

We would also like to remind you that we are always available if you have any queries or concerns, no matter how big or small! Please don't leave them until parents evening to ask. We will always discuss things with you if there's anything you need or want to know.

Dates for your diary

Below are a few dates for our Christmas events in Acorns:

Tuesday 5th December at 2pm in our Acorns classrooms: Christmas Craft Event. We would like to invite one adult per child to spend the afternoon with us making some fun Christmas crafts. All crafts will be supplied so just bring yourselves and have lots of fun with all the Christmas sparkle! **We ask that you please let us know who will be attending this event with your child prior to this day.**

Wednesday 6th December: Acorns Christmas Dinner Day

Friday 8th December: Christmas Jumper Day and PTA Santa's Grotto visit in school

Tuesday, 12th December at 2.30pm in the school hall: Acorns Christmas Sing Song. We would like to invite parents along to watch us sing a few Christmas songs to help us all get into the Christmas spirit. There will also be a yummy festive treat at the end of the afternoon! We hope to see you all there!



Our Learning Gallery



BANG!

Look at our pastel firework pictures. We thought carefully about making them bright and colourful. We also looked at the different lines and shapes we could see!



Crackle!



Pop!



We explored using different techniques with the paint. Here we used straws and learnt how to make a print with them on the paper!



Look at the detail on my Lego house! What wonderful concentration and detail!

An author in the making!



Our Learning Gallery



Look at our poppy paintings! We really concentrated to make sure the colours didn't merge as we painted.



Look at our transient poppy art too. We looked carefully at a poppy first then choose the best colours and shapes to represent the different parts of the poppy!



The children were all inspired by this pom pom mouse creation in the Art Studio this week. What a creative idea. We soon had a range of pom pom creatures in Acorns!



Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

