



9.01.2022

Sunflower Newsletter

The children have settled back into our routines very well and have told us all about their wonderful Christmas holidays.

Our new topic for the term is Changing Seasons: Winter (see attached overview). We are starting this week with the traditional tale of the Enormous Turnip

Reading

This week the children will take books home that have words in them.

This may be a sound blending book, for children who need more practice sounding out and blending, or a book with words together in sentences.

Whichever book your child has, before starting please read the inside cover of the book to yourself which explains how you can best support your child with their reading.

Encourage your child to be as independent as possible by following these tips:

- get them to use a finger to point to each word (and each sound in the word)
- remind them to 'fred talk' each word (that means sound it out)
- if they get stuck, sound the word out for them eg. b-i-g (using letter sounds not letter names) and ask them to copy you. If they still can't say it then sound it out b-i-g and say the word 'big' getting them to copy you afterwards
- red words cannot be sounded out (you can't fred a red!) so to begin with you will have to read these words for them

When children begin reading at home it can be very frustrating for all involved! Remember, you have the same book for a week so take it slowly and if anyone starts to lose patience put the book away and read to your child from their library book instead.

If you think your child isn't 'getting it' yet please don't worry they will get there.

This video may help to support your child with sound blending

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNyFikwNQTg>

Your comments about your child's reading in their reading record is very important- please do let us know if they are finding the books too hard or too easy so that we can assess them and make sure that they are reading the most appropriate book.

Book changing days are the same as before but here is a reminder:

Monday- blue group, Tuesday- black group, Wednesday- yellow group, Thursday-green group, Friday- red group

Maths– Alive in 5

This week we will be learning about the number 'zero'. We will be doing lots of songs counting backwards eg. five little speckled frogs. At home, try to use the word zero eg. instead of saying none left say there is zero left.

Phonics

This week the children have been split in to 2 phonics groups taught by Mrs Munday and Mrs D'Mello. One group will be consolidating the set 1 sounds while the other group are beginning to learn the set 2 sounds. All children will learn the set 2 sounds eventually, but not until we are confident that their set 1 sounds are secure and they are blending the sounds together to begin to read words.

This video tells you how to say all the set 1 and set 2 sounds.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/find-a-book/read-write-inc-phonics--1/phonics-pure-sounds-video>

Thank you for your continued support.

Changing Seasons: Winter

Texts: The Enormous Turnip, One Winter's Day, Charlie Crow in the Snow, Bella gets her Skates on, Lost in the Snow, Betty and the Yeti

Communication and Language

Name items of clothing.
Ask questions about stories.
Describe winter pictures.
Learn seasonal poems.
Describe the weather.

Physical Development

Create an 'ice' dance like an ice skater.
Build shelters for animals
Cut out pictures for a winter collage
Use small tools to rescue small world characters from ice
Trace snowflake shapes

Expressive Arts and Design

Make bird feeders.
Create shelters for animals that might be cold.
Create a winter collage
Make Snow monsters using junk modelling

Understanding the World

Investigate freezing and melting.
Observe the changes in the environment in the winter.
Investigate animal footprints.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Understand why we need to keep warm.
Know how to keep themselves warm.
Work together to look after the birds and other animals in the winter.
Recognise characters' feelings in the stories and relate to times when they felt the same
Talk about how the characters could solve their problems.

Literacy

Listen to information texts about winter
Find out what happens in the environment during winter
Retell stories
Predict what will happen next in a story and communicate this through drawing or writing.
Match the words or pictures to the object on a winter hunt