

Message from Mrs Grainger

Lots of reports this week in the media, of the damage caused by the lockdowns to children's development, particularly to early reading. NEVER UNDER ESTIMATE THE HUGE DIFFRENCE you can make as a parent by taking an interest WITH YOUR CHILD in their learning. The simplest ways of making a difference do not change. Little and often, when you can – 10 to 15 minutes.

- Talk to your child about their day. Having a conversation and encouraging them to speak clearly, slowly and pronouncing words clearly is important. Explore new words and vocabulary.
- Read with them. Unpick their understanding of words read. Use who, what, why questions to explore their language.
- Experiences like walking to the park, to the shops, in the garden or cooking. Talk about these events to build up their language use.
- Make eye contact and encourage your children to do so. Put key words, vocabulary up around the house, in the kitchen as a reminder to practice.
- Return to key facts or language and get your child to show you what they know – and if they can then praise them.

A child has a much greater chance of developing a love of learning, with regular interest from you. A child's life chances are greatly increased by developing basic reading and maths skills as soon as they can, as fully as they can.

The Government continue to move ahead with their 'roadmap out of lockdown' and we are planning how this will affect some of the events in school towards the latter part of the term. We are considering how we can continue with certain things in the safest way possible, although any arrangements will be subject to changes based on the Government requirements. We will provide you with more information as soon as we can.



Message from Early Years

What another amazing week we have had in Early Years.

This week, we have started our new Theme 'Do Dragons Exist?'. Alongside our theme we have started to read the story 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We have been writing about the events that happen in the story and some of us have even started to re-write it too using story language!

During our choosing time we have been labelling the characters, threading beads onto green pipe cleaners to make a beanstalk, made a castle using the tap- a-shape, drew our own dragon and labelled it, carefully coloured and cut out a dragon, mixed paints to make green and painted our own beanstalk and much more. In maths this week, we have been learning all about 3D shapes. We have been naming and describing the 3D shapes cone, cuboid, sphere, square- based pyramid and cube. Also in maths this week we have been learning to add by counting on using a number line to 10.

IMPORTANT DATE FOR BOTH NURSERY AND RECEPTION: Thursday 27th May 2021

At the end of this half term we would like to finish our theme 'Do dragons exist?' by having a medieval banquet and learning some medieval dancing. This definitely wouldn't be the same without dressing up! We would like your child to come into school dressed up as a Princess, Prince, Knight, King, Queen etc.

Please could you provide your child with a named paper plate with a small snack just for them ready for the banquet. Please ensure that you only put a couple of items i.e. a small cake and crisps.





This week, we have introduced our new theme 'Do Dragons Exist?', where we have been talking about the different parts of a castle and thinking about what life might have been like to live in a castle all those years ago. We painted castles and made castle models out of cardboard boxes, as well as designing our own dragons and labelling them.

We were busy on the play dough table, creating our own dragons and our younger children loved having their first try at using our collage materials to make dragon masks.

We have also been learning about surveys, and how we can make marks on paper to represent numbers. The children asked their friends what was their favourite colour and then counted the marks, finding out which was the most popular and least popular colours.

As well as this, children have been very busy with our maths resources, making 2 and 3 colour patterns with the cubes, and independently finding numerals and shapes in the environment.

We are currently practising how to do a medieval dance in time for our medieval banquet which will be during the last week of this half term. We are hoping to dress up as princes and princesses and perform our dance to Miss Morton's class. More details of this are to follow.







Our Reception children make us proud every week with their learning! Take a look at this week's activities...





