

Acorn Update – Friday 27th November 2020

Hello there!,

The days are definitely getting colder and shorter, but our Little Acorns are continuing to work as hard as ever, this week has been no exception.

This week, Mrs Perkins has been supporting the children with their maths (leading two maths mornings) which has meant the children can really be really engrossed in maths. The focus had been on subtraction (taking away), with the children using lots of manipulatives and practical ways to subtract, these have ranged from *sweets in a jar* to Numicon. Mrs Perkins and Mrs Evans have been very impressed with how the children have developed their subtraction skills this week.

English has been taught more 'virtually', with the interactive whiteboard being used to stream live lessons I have led from my spare room, these have been supported in the classroom by Mrs Evans and Ms Houtou. The children have been learning new vocabulary linked to the story of The Three Little Pigs, they have listened to and joined in with the many repeated refrains ('I'll huff and I'll Puff..!' and 'Not by the hair on my chinny chin..!') and written about the beginning, middle and end of the story. The children have also created a story map and cut out clothes to dress each little pig, who looked a bit chilly in just their pig pants! Children in year 1 have been investigating spelling patterns such as 'ew' as an alternative to 'oo' (as in stew), using 'ed' for past tense (walked) and 'aw' and 'al' as alternatives to 'or'. They have also been using their spelling pattern of 'ck' when writing, to describing the materials used for house building (bricks and sticks).

The children enjoyed working with Mrs Perkins and Mrs Evans learning all about tunnelling animals, especially the Naked Mole Rat. They watched 'Andy's Safari Adventures' on CBeebies to see the tunnelling rat in action. Then they talked about the features of the mole rat and, how it has *adapted* to make it a great tunnel-maker.

Many towers and tunnels have been made this week both in the classroom and in forest school. The children have really enjoyed themselves being outside and active.

They have also been working hard learning and practising the songs for our Nativity. Emails have been sent to all parents whose children need to wear alternative clothing to that in the group call letter.

So, just a reminder for next week:

Monday: school uniform

Tuesday: PE kit

Wednesday: Forest school kit

Thursday & Friday: Nativity clothing (can be worn as a base layer for warmth).

Home learning

Year 1 children: The spelling pattern for next week is **words ending in y**. These words have an 'ee' sound at the end. We refer to the 'y' as being called '**Toughy y**' (pronounced 'why') as the letter is 'tough and brave' and doesn't mind being before a space!' This is a very successful way of teaching 'y' at the end of words. So please use it if you would like/need to.

Children in Reception will continue with word bags as they are ready.

The homework set for this week is:

The usual stuff!

- Read your reading book/to learn your spellings – words ending in y (Year 1)
- Read your word bag words/practise your phonemes – recognising sounds and doing the actions using your phoneme card you have at home. Try to write them if you would like or write some three letter words such as 'sat pin tin cat' using your phoneme card (alternatively an adult could say the word at you could point to each letter in order, or put a counter on each letter).
- Practise counting (pointing carefully) the numbers on your number line (up to 20) and see if you can recognise and count them from 20-1.

Something a little different!

- Next week we will be investigating **Bridges**. See if you can find some pictures of bridges from around the world. Maybe you have walked across some of them. If you go out for a walk at the weekend (and cross a bridge) take a picture and send it to the class email address.
- See if you can make a bridge at home out of whatever you can find. Test how strong it is – can a toy stand/sit on it? Can more than one toy do this? Could something heavier balance on your bridge?
- **Purple Mash topic** – I have set a picture of **Isambard Kingdom Brunel** this week. Please could you find out something about him as an engineer and (with an adult as scribe if needed) write in the speech bubble something he created (as if he is saying it). We will be investigating this engineer next week.
- **Purple Mash maths** – next week we will be investigating shape and pattern, so I have set a **2D shape quiz** (the first question requires you to use drag and drop to draw a line from the name to the shape). You may need to support your child by drawing the shapes for the following questions. I have also set a **3D shape activity** (questions 7 & 8 require drop and drag, this quiz has an audio too). I have also set a **Sorting 2D and 3D shape** activity (which Year 1 children should definitely try)
- *If you prefer not to, or are unable to use Purple Mash, then you could create a collection of 2D and 3D shapes (sorted into' the same shapes, with name labels), then you could group all the 2D shapes together and all the 3D shapes together, what do you notice? Please do send any photographs in to the Acorn email address.*

Well done to all the children who were able to complete the flag activity and maths work on Purple Mash last week. House points have been awarded.

I hope you all have a good weekend and I am hoping to be back at school on Wednesday.

Take care,

Miss Blake