

Newsletter - 13th November 2020

Our News

We were so proud of how all of the children returned to school after their half-term break. They all returned with big smiles and lots of enthusiasm to complete challenges in their learning. Very well done!

It was lovely to talk to you all at our first parents' evenings of the year and to share with you your child's successes and next steps. The Ducklings' targets/next steps have all been emailed home to you now. Any questions, please just get in touch.



STARS OF THE WEEK



Corey Redfern from Yellow Ducklings and Raife Penistone from Brown Ducklings

STAR WRITER OF THE HALF-TERM

Jimmy Nichol from Yellow Ducklings and Jack Watson from Brown Ducklings

Our Learning

Little Chicks and Ducklings have been busy finding out about different celebrations and special days. We have learnt about the history behind Bonfire Night and the story of Guy Fawkes. The children also shared their experiences of celebrating Bonfire Night together. We then found out about the Hindu and Sikh festival of light called Diwali. We compared this celebration with special celebrations that the children may have experienced themselves such as a birthday, Christmas and a wedding or anniversary. The children are now able to explain how people decorate their homes, wear special clothes, eat special food and give each other gifts and so on during these special family times.

On Wednesday we also found out more about why we have a special day of remembrance each year on the 11th November. We observed the 2 minutes silence and the children loved making their own poppies, using materials of their own choosing.

Little Chicks

We have been...

- Describing the position of different objects using prepositions such as under, next to and behind.
- Exploring making different firework track marks in the sand with their fingers, brushes and other mark making tools.
- Talking about the sound effects and noises that can be heard on Bonfire Night.
- Using different techniques and materials to create Bonfire Night pictures.
- Singing lots of different celebration songs and playing instruments alongside.

Ducklings

We have been...

- Learning the names of common 3D and 2D shapes and looking for examples of each shape in our environment.

- Talking about some of the features of each shape, such as the number of sides, corners or vertices and whether they have curved, flat or straight edges and faces.
- Learning the letter names and their sounds for the letters o, c, k, ck, e, u and r and beginning to read simple words and sentences with these letters in
- In writing we have been practising forming each letter correctly, as well as writing rhyming words from a Bonfire Night Poem and writing about how Diwali is celebrated.
- Using puppets and story props to retell story of Rama and Sita.
- We have chosen our own media and materials to create Bonfire Night pictures and have used clay to make our own Diwali, Diva lamps.
- The Ducklings loved their first PE session with Josh from Fleetwood Town and have done some amazing Bhangra dancing this week!



What Next?

For the next few weeks we will be learning about our new topic, 'Are we any better?' We will be looking at household technology past and present and find out how things that we have now differ from those in the past. We will sort objects old and new and design our own new inventions! A lot of the children have an interest in machines and robots so we will look at reading stories and information books around this theme.

We will build and create our own machines and robots, learn to programme a real robot, use tools safely to help explore machines and technical objects and investigate different materials and their properties.



Reminders

BLOG

Visit the school website and have a look at our class blog [with your child](#). This is another way for them to share with you what they have been learning at school. You could write a comment together.

Home-Learning Pages

Don't forget to visit the Little Chicks and Ducklings home learning pages on the school website. These pages detail ideas and activities to be completed at home. Well done to those of you who have sent in photographs, via email, of activities that you have been busy completing. The targets from parents' evening are also activities that you can be practising or working on with your child at home.

WOW! Certificates

On our Ducklings class page there are wow moments that you can complete and email back to us when you see or hear your child doing or learning something amazing. We miss having lots of these on our 'Wow Wall.' Please continue to send in photographs or certificates if children have any special achievements at home such as swimming awards.

Hair and PE

All long hair should be tied back in PE for health and safety reasons. Thank you.

Allergies

Please can we ask that packed lunch children refrain from bringing egg sandwiches in their lunches as we have a number of children currently in school who are allergic to egg. We are a nut free and egg free school. Thanks for your support with this.

Milk

Cool Milk -A number of children are asking for milk, who don't appear to be on our milk list. Please check with your child whether or not they would like milk. Even if your child is under 5 years of age and is entitled to free milk, you still have to register with the Cool Milk company for this to happen. It can take a week or so for this to be processed. Visit <https://www.coolmilk.com/>

During the school term that your child turns five, you will have to pay for milk and it is no longer free. Little Chicks are all entitled to free milk but must register for it.

Little Chicks and 2021/22 School Applications

Please remember to apply for your child's school place online at www.schooladmissions.lancashire.gov.uk by 15th January. You still need to apply, even if you have a brother or sister already at the school.

Can you help?

For our latest topic we would love any old electrical appliances such as an old kettle, microwave, toaster, plug, hairdryer, sockets, etc that the children can enjoy exploring and taking apart safely with tools. If you do have any, please hand over to the class teacher in the morning or drop in at the office and explain what they are for. If you have a favourite robot themed story or information book at home, send it in to share. We will quarantine each book before using in school and before sending home again. Many thanks.

How can you help at home?

Little Chicks

Look in your home for machines that do special jobs for you - washing machine, Hoover, etc.

Get out your building blocks out and talk about what 3D shapes you can see. Build a model and use prepositions to describe what is on top, behind, next to, beside, underneath, etc.

Keep practising being independent - zipping up your coat, doing up buttons, using a knife and fork, pouring your own drink, getting undressed for bed and so on.

Ducklings

Don't forget to use the activities on Education City to support your home learning too.

Talk for Mathematics

Use building blocks to build a model. Talk about the shapes that you can see, 2D and 3D.

Look around your home - find as many different 2D and 3D shapes as you can. Which shape can you find the most of?

Find a shape and talk about its features - how many sides does it have? How many corners or vertices? Count the number of flat faces or curved faces, and so on.

Use shape templates and draw a shape picture. Make a shape robot, machine or invention.

Make repeating patterns with colour or shape. Use household objects to make repeating patterns - fork, spoon, fork, spoon, etc.

Make patterns with shapes, numbers, colours, letters, musical rhythm patterns using body percussion such as clap, clap, stamp and so on.

www.ictgames.com/numeracy

www.topmarks.co.uk

Talk for Reading and Writing

Use the letter and sounds cards sent home to practise reading simple words and making words with these letters. Practise writing these letters in sand, with chalk on the path, in the mud with a stick or on a baking tray filled with salt or flour!

Look for these letters in books at home. Listen for the new sounds at the beginning, middle and end of words.

Have a go at being Metal Mike! Sound talk words e.g. Can you touch your l-e-g?

Watch Geraldine the Giraffe (+ the letter/sound) - phonics clips and watch and sing the Jolly Phonics songs on YouTube for each letter.

Play the tricky word games together that will be sent home later next week.

Read, watch or listen to a robot themed story together.

Draw and 'write' your own story about a robot.

For more reading suggestions - look on the Ducklings home learning page.

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

www.phonicsbloom.co.uk

www.ictgames.com/literacy

Talk for topic

Ask a parent/grandparent what technology or machines they had in the past when they were younger. Find out how things might have changed. Ask them to think about the question, 'Are we any better?'

Use technology such as an iPad to find out more about what a particular object might have been like in the past, for e.g. a car or a telephone.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 27th November - Flu vaccines

Monday 7th December - Christmas activities

Friday 18th December - School closes for Christmas

Monday 4th January - School reopens

Our next newsletter will be on Friday 27th November and will give details about all the fun activities we have planned for the next two weeks.

Any questions please don't hesitate to ring, email or come and see us.

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