



Newsletter - 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022

### Our News

It was lovely to speak to you all at our recent parents' evenings and to share with you how your child is progressing and which aspects of their learning they need to focus on next.

We are all very excited in school and are looking forward to watching the construction work, which will be starting shortly, on our new physical development play area.



**STARS OF THE WEEK**



**Elias and Arthur from Yellow Ducklings  
Zayn and Aidan from Brown Ducklings**

### Our Learning

We have been talking about how we celebrate special occasions at home with our families and comparing and contrasting this with how some families celebrate the Chinese or Lunar New Year. We have enjoyed listening to the story of the Chinese Zodiac and watching dragon dances, as well as having a go at doing our own!

It was Safer Internet week as well as Children's Mental Health Awareness week, so we combined the two in our week of learning. The children have found out, through stories and scenarios, how they can stay safe online. Ask them all about it! We have also talked about how we might be feeling each day and why. We have shared the different things that make us feel happy and have joined in each day with activities that help to create a feeling of positive mental well-being, such as mindfulness colouring, yoga, meditation and listening to classical music.

In preparation for Valentine's Day we have created our own cards by printing with hearts and have talked about and drawn the people who we love.

### Little Chicks have been...

- Mark making by trying out some Chinese writing and writing in our Valentine's cards.
- Exploring the 2D shapes on the faces of 3D shapes and tracing around them, describing some of their properties.
- Finding objects that begin with k and l.
- Retelling the story of the Chinese Zodiac using the small world animals.

### Ducklings have been...

- Drawing and writing about how we are feeling and what makes us feel happy.
- Creating a poster for how to stay safe online and designing our own Safer Internet logos.
- Exploring different ways to make the numbers 6,8, and 8 and finding the total of two amounts by adding.
- Learning to read and write the digraphs and trigraph ai, ee, igh, oa and oo.

### Our Learning - What next?

After learning about very cold places in the world, the Ducklings and Little Chicks will be learning all about a contrasting place, Africa. We will begin this topic by reading the story Handa's Surprise and will compare and contrast where we live with what life is like in Kenya. We are also looking forward to our special visitors who are coming to teach us African drumming and dancing.

## Reminders

### Reading

As well as reading regularly (every night if possible!) please practise the letter and sound flashcards to help your child to retain their phonics learning, also playing the tricky word games to help them learn these new words. Your child can access additional reading books at home for homework and if you are ever having to work from home. The login details are as follows:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

The login details are as follows: Username - cgducklings Password - ducklings21

Please select books from the same colour band of books that your child is currently bringing home.

### We need...

- Bubble wrap for one of our creative, printing activities
- Tropical fruits for our mathematics play, investigation table and our outdoor learning - pineapple, avocado, guava, mango, passion fruit, etc.

Thanking you in advance for your help with this!

### Library Day

Ducklings have each brought home a school library book of their own choosing. These need to be brought back each **Friday** so that they can be swapped for a new book. We have talked about the need to look after and take care of any books that we borrow from our school or local libraries.

### Topic Books

Please send in any story or information books that you may have at home about hot countries or climates for us to share with the classes. We promise to look after them and return them safely when we have finished sharing them.

### Road Safety

We will be completing a basic road safety course with the Ducklings in the summer term, until then, please reinforce the same message that we have been talking to the children about in school regarding how to stay safe near roads - holding a grown-up's hand or the handle of the pram, walking on the side of the pavement away from the kerb and so on.

## How can you help at home?

### Little Chicks

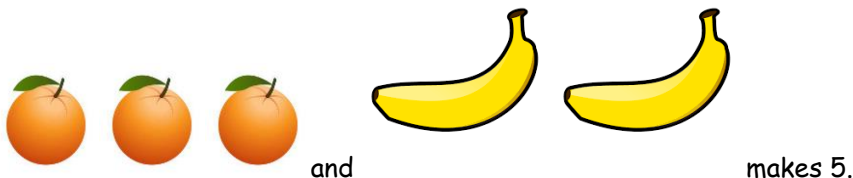
Have a look for different signs, symbols, letters and numbers when you are out and about. Send in or email a photograph of what you find for a stamp on your Carleton Code passport!

When you are out shopping, have a look at all of the different fruit and vegetables that you can see. Can you name them all?

### Ducklings

#### Talk for Mathematics

Using some fruits or other practical objects, explore all of the different ways to make 5.



A grown up shows you how many fruits they have and you have to get the number of fruits or say the number that would go with it to make 5 in total.

Get some different fruits and vegetables and order them according to their size or length.

Weigh and compare different fruits from the Handa's surprise story.

Can you put them in order from heaviest to lightest?

Get some toy animals compare their height or length. Put them in height or length order.

Download the new White Rose - 1 minute maths games app to play and practise basic number skills.

<https://whiterosemaths.com/resources/1-minute-maths>

[www.ictgames.com/numeracy](http://www.ictgames.com/numeracy)

[www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk)

### **Talk for Reading and Writing**

Practise any letters/sounds and tricky words that you are still unsure of.

Write sentences with the tricky words in or look for them in your reading books.

Practise writing the tricky words with chalk outside. Make a hopscotch!

Make a tricky word treasure hunt around the house using post-it notes with tricky words written on. Can they find them and say them?

Make a hopscotch with the digraphs we have been learning on - oa, oo, ar, or and ur.

Practise writing words with our new sounds in, such as boat, cook, moon, bark, fork and turn.

Look for these new digraphs in books that you have at home and when out and about.

Play the tricky words snakes and ladders games.

[www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk)

[www.ictgames.com/literacy](http://www.ictgames.com/literacy)

[www.phonicsbloom.co.uk](http://www.phonicsbloom.co.uk)

[www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)

### **Talk for topic**

Go to the library and look for other stories set in Africa or about safari animals. Bring them into school to share.

Research facts about Africa with a grown up.

Try tasting some different tropical fruits at home. Send in some photos of you doing this!

See how many different fruits and vegetables you can name when you are next at the shop.

Which is your favourite fruit and why? Where does it grow in the world?

Have a go at painting or printing with fruits.



### **Dates for your diary:**

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February ~ **African Drumming and Dance workshops** for Ducklings and Little Chicks that attend on this day. Please pay the contribution using the parent pay facility - [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)

Our next newsletter will be on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 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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