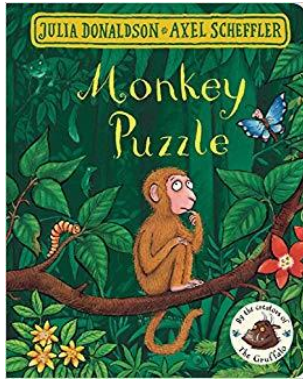


Reception Newsletter

Welcome back! We hope you have had a restful and relaxing Christmas holiday!

Our key high-quality text this half term



Monkey Puzzle
By Julia Donaldson

English

Our literacy sessions are largely based around speaking and listening skills, exploring language and making links to our rainforest topic. We are developing our ability to describe this half term, choosing words carefully to accurately explain what jungle animals look and behave like. We will be looking more closely at non-fiction texts and will be planning and writing our own rainforest fact files later in the half term. We are expanding our vocabulary all of the time and taking advantage of any opportunity to learn new words!

Reading & Phonics

This half term we are continuing with our learning of Phase 3 digraphs (sounds that have two letters!) Our Monster Phonics friends will continue to help us learn new sounds by linking them to different colours and we will be practising reading both colour-coded and plain text words in class.

We will be having whole class reading sessions linked to a familiar traditional tale each week which will focus on our digraph for each week.

Your child will take part in a group or 1:1 reading session each week using our Monster Phonics reading scheme. Please continue to practise these books as often as possible at home to ensure your child is confident and comfortable with the words in their book!

Your comments about progress at home are very valuable to us, so please continue to fill out your child's reading record each week.

Writing

Independence is key for this half term! We are encouraging the children to write for purpose and in contexts that are meaningful to them. We are developing our use of capital letters, finger spaces and full stops when writing sentences and are practising reading our own writing back to another person. We are also taking part in daily "Squiggle While You Wiggle" sessions – a motor skills programme that helps us to develop both gross and fine motor skills necessary to correctly form letters and become confident writers!

Numeracy

This half term we are focusing on the representation and composition of numbers up to 8. We are exploring how numbers can be combined to make new, larger numbers or split into smaller groups. We will be developing vocabulary linked to addition and subtraction and deepening our understanding of what each numeral represents.

Later in the half term we will be comparing mass and capacity, looking specifically at length and height. We will also be considering time through the order and sequence of different events, using a daily timetable in our classroom and looking closely at our clock.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

We are more aware than ever of the importance of good mental health and wellbeing. We will be working on managing our feelings and emotions this half term, exploring different ways of displaying our emotions and developing our self-awareness. We will be spending lots of time being mindful, sharing positivity and promoting good self-esteem, keeping our bodies and minds healthy and happy! We are developing our collaboration and perseverance skills through whole class and small group challenges, both indoors and outdoors.

Thank you for your continuing support and hard work at home!

Mrs Gates & Miss Daniels

Class Targets

*to look closely at and discuss similarities, differences, patterns and change in the environment. *

*to ask and answer how and why questions about stories and the world around us.

*to begin to apply skills and knowledge to a range of tasks independently.

Wider Curriculum

We are learning about the jungle and rainforests of the world! We will be investigating where these places are on our world map and thinking about some of the features of the rainforest, including which animals live there, what the weather is like and other physical features. We will be beginning to categorise animals that live in the rainforest too! In Art we will be looking at Rousseau's "Tiger in a Tropical Storm" and using different media to create our own versions of this famous painting.

