

Dear Ladybirds and Bumblebees,

This weekend, we would like you to think about the sounds we have learnt so far (s,a,t,p). Can you spot any objects around your home or when you are out and about that start with these sounds? You could draw us a picture of what you find in your home school diary.

Have fun!

Love Buzz and Lola



Week beginning 12th September 2022

Dear Parents,

What a great week we have had here in Foundation. The children have been extremely busy getting used to the new routines and it has been lovely to see them become more comfortable in their new environment. All the teachers are very impressed with how the children have managed the transition to a full time timetable.

They have been busy learning about the story of the Naughty Bus and thinking about what happens. We have had a go at drawing pictures from the story and thinking about the initial sound that a word starts with. The children have also been practising recognising and writing their own names. In book bags, you will find a name card for your child to practise with at home. At school, we encourage the children to use the 'tripod' grip when holding their pen/pencil. An image of how this looks is shown below.



In Phonics, we have been learning our first four sounds (s, a, t, p) and we have sent these home in a pack for you to keep and practice at home. Why not ask your child to tell you the sound each letter makes and show you the action that accompanies it? Please also continue to read your child's book with them and let us know in the Home School Diary when you have finished it so we can change it. On the back of this newsletter, you will find some information about reading wordless books.

In Maths, we have been focusing on counting, following the Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract (CPA) approach, which involves making, drawing and writing a number. This is the approach we use at Sandgate, and we will give you more information and guidance on this approach as we go through the year.

Dates for your diary

- **Wednesday 28th September at 5.30pm** - Parent Phonics Workshop. This will be in the main hall.
- **Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st September** – Individual School Photos. Please ensure your child is wearing a jumper/cardigan with the Sandgate logo. You may send in a hairbrush in their book bags if you wish

Just to let you know –

- Scooters and bikes can be left at school during the day in our 'parking area'. You will find this between the two school buildings. It has green astroturf on it. If you are unsure please ask at the gate on your way out.
- The children have been busy trying the hot school dinners this week and it has been brilliant to see so many trying new foods for the first time. At this point in year we stay with the children while they eat, so that we can monitor how they get on and keep you updated if we have any concerns. If you can, please have a chat with child about giving things a go and how although they may have tried a meal at home, it may taste different at school!

Finally, we would really appreciate it you could take some time this weekend to help your child learn to put on their coat independently. Have a lovely weekend and should you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask, you can either write it in the home school diary or call the school office.

The Foundation Team

Here are a few tips for sharing wordless picture books with your child:

- Recognise that there are no ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ ways to read a wordless book. One of the wonderful benefits of using wordless books is how each child creates their own story (or stories!) from the same pictures.
- Spend time looking at the cover and talking about the book’s title. Based on those two things, make a few predictions about the story.
- Take a “picture walk” through the pages of the book. Look carefully at the expressions on characters’ faces, the setting and the colours they can see. Talk to each other about what you see. These conversations will enrich the storytelling.
- Enjoy the pictures and point out a few things, but don’t worry too much about telling a story yet. Just enjoy the pictures and get a sense of what the book is about.
- Go back through the book a second time and get ready for some great storytelling! Consider going first and acting as a model for your child. Have different voices for the characters, add sound effects and use interesting words in your version of the book.
- Encourage your child to “read” you the book with their storytelling. Focus on the words your child uses when they tell the story. Help your child expand their sentences or thoughts by encouraging them to add information from the illustration’s details. One way to encourage more details is by asking “W” questions: Who? Where? When? Why?
- Finish your wordless book sharing by asking a few simple questions: What pictures helped you tell the story? What was your favourite part of your story? Have you had an experience like the one in your story?
The book may be a non-fiction/fact book that shows you how to make something. This can be shared in the same way (talk through the story first)

Sharing wordless books is a terrific way to build important literacy skills, including listening skills, vocabulary, comprehension — and an increased awareness of how stories are “built,” as the storyteller often uses a beginning, middle, end format. For a book with no words, you’ll be surprised at all the talking you will do, and all the fun you’ll have!

