

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 Lottie



Week beginning 11th September 2023

Dear Parents/carers,

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 confident and comfortable in their new environment. All of the Foundation team are very impressed with how the children have managed the transition to a full-time timetable.

We have also been blown away by many of the children's confidence in attempting to come into school independently! If your child has not yet come into school independently, it is something we would like to encourage from next week. If they feel a little unsure about this, finding a friend for them to walk from the gate with is a great idea.

We have continued to learn the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' this week. Can your child recite some of this to you at home? Perhaps they can show you the actions we have added to the story too? The children have also been practising recognising and writing their own names.

In your child's bookbag today you will find a wallet containing flashcards of the sounds that we have been learning this week (s, a, t, p), for the children to practise recall with at home. They will hopefully be able to tell you each sound and the accompanying action that helps us remember it. In the wallet you will also find a name card for your child, to help them practise writing their names with the correct letter formation. We encourage the children to use the 'tripod' grip when holding their pencil. An image of how this looks is shown.



You will have also received a letter this week about Marvellous Me, an online communication between school and home. Once you have signed up to the APP you will be able to access information about activities your child has been involved in at school and rewards they have earned. We hope this will be a valuable tool for both you and your child and an opportunity to discuss and celebrate their achievements at school.

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. At the bottom of this newsletter, you will find some further information about reading wordless books.

Dates for your diary:

- **Wednesday 27th September at 5.30pm** - Parent Phonics Workshop.

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. Also, we ask that scooters or bikes are pushed not ridden beyond the green gates.
- Many of the children have been 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 your child about giving things a try and how although they may have tried a meal at home, it may taste different at school.
- Some children have come to school without water bottles this week. Please ensure that your child has a water bottle every day so that they can help themselves to a drink when thirsty and stay well hydrated.

Have a lovely weekend and should you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask, either by writing in the home-school diary, chatting to us at the end of the day, or calling 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: Which 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!