

Dear Ladybirds and Bumblebees,

This week we have learnt the Rainbow Word 'the'. 'The' is a very common word. Choose one of your favourite books at home and see how many times you can spot the word 'the'! Why not keep a tally in your home-school diary as you go.

Love Buzz and Lottie



Week beginning 25th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have continued to make the most of the lovely weather this week, with lots of great outside Explorer Time activities. We also went on a journey through our outside environment, looking and talking about the materials around us and how they look, feel and change during different seasons of the year.

This week in English we have continued our 'Bear Hunt' learning and we have innovated the story. That is, we have made changes to the original story but kept the structure the same. Ask your child if they can remember what type of animal they were hunting for in their story and where their journey took them. The children came up with some great, creative ideas!

We have also been focusing on the story 'The Colour Monster' this week and thinking about which colours represent different feelings and emotions for us and things that make us feel particular emotions.

In Maths this week we have been practising counting, with a real focus on one-to-one correspondence when counting objects. We have been ensuring that we touch each object when we count and that we only count each one once.

We have also been learning about the Characteristics of Effective Learning this week. The Characteristics of Effective Learning describe behaviours children use in order to learn effectively and they come under three main headings: playing and exploring, active learning, and creating and thinking critically. We have introduced these to the children through animal mascots that are on display in our classroom and a story about them working together to build a playground. You can find the characters at the end of the newsletter.

Thank you for continuing to read with your child and for helping them to learn their sounds. You will find the new sounds they have learnt this week (g, o, c, k) in their book bags today. It would be great if you could get the children to demonstrate the sounds and actions that they have learnt this week, as well as having a go at blending some of the words on the accompanying word list too. You will also find the word 'the' included in the sound packs this week. We call this a 'Rainbow Word' and it is a word that we need to remember by sight, as we are unable to sound it out.

Thank you to those who attended the phonics workshop on Wednesday evening; we hope you found it useful. You will all receive an email containing a 'parent handbook', detailing some information about our phonics scheme and the sounds and actions that the children will learn. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Dates for your diaries

- **Friday 6th October** – First PE session. Children come into school in their PE kit and stay in it for the day. This will remain the same on Fridays for the rest of this term.
- **Book Week 9th-13th October** - further information to follow separately.

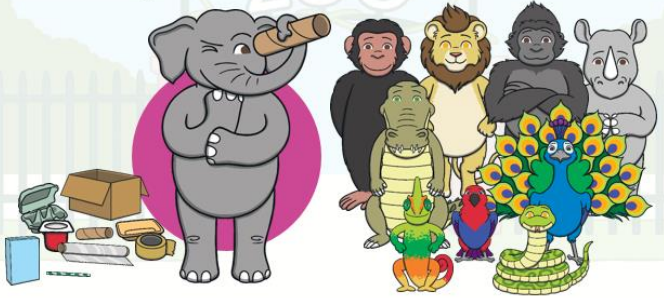
We hope you have a lovely weekend.

The Foundation Team

Characteristics of Effective Learning

Exploring Elephant

Exploring Elephant learns by exploring new things and trying to work out what new things are. He uses all his senses to help him. Before trying to build a new play area for the zoo, he explores and finds out what the different materials are.



Go-For-It Gorilla

When faced with a new challenge or when trying to do something he hasn't done before, Go-For-It Gorilla will have a go at doing it. Even before his friends try something, he is happy to try it first. He likes challenges and shows a 'can do' attitude!



Slinky-Linky Snake

To help him to learn how to do something new, Slinky-Linky Snake remembers and makes links to what he has done in the past. This helps him to make predictions, which means have a good guess about what will happen. When making the new play area, Slinky-Linky Snake remembers he has used sticky tape before and thinks he will be able to use it to stick parts of the new play area together.



Creative Chameleon

Creative Chameleon always has lots of his own ideas. He is very creative and will think of new ideas and new ways to try and do things. When Creative Chameleon heard about the challenge to build a play area, he had lots of ideas about what to make. He even wanted to make a slide and came up with an idea of how to do it!



Choosing Chimp

Before she begins a new challenge, Choosing Chimp likes to plan what she is going to do. She thinks things through before she has a go. Once she has had a go, she thinks about how well it went and whether she could have done anything differently.

Before having a go at building part of a new play area for the zoo, Choosing Chimp planned what she was going to try and make and even drew a picture of it before she started to make it.



Concentrating Crocodile

Concentrating Crocodile can think about a new challenge for a long time without moving on to anything else. He thinks about all the little things he will need to do to help him with the challenge.

Even when the other zoo animals decided to have a break, Concentrating Crocodile carried on thinking about how to build all of the different parts of the new play area.



I Know Rhino

I Know Rhino will play with objects and pretend that they are other things. She likes to act out and pretend to be other animals or pretend to do other things.

When I Know Rhino helped to make the new play area, she pretended some of the boxes were a rocket that would blast her into space!



Persevering Parrot

Persevering Parrot doesn't give up. When she finds something hard, she tries again. If she still can't do something, she will think of different ways to try things. She never gives up when something is tricky.

When the other zoo animals tried to make a swing and gave up, Persevering Parrot did not give up! She tried to put the swing together in lots of different ways until it finally worked.



Proud Peacock

As well as feeling happy and proud of what he has done, Proud Peacock is also proud of how he did it.

Proud Peacock isn't just proud of what the new zoo play area looks like, he is also proud and happy with how all his friends worked together to help to build it.

