

Dear Ladybirds and Bumblebees,

When Baby Bear from our story 'Whatever Next' goes to space he has a picnic with an owl. What would you pack for a picnic in space? We would love for you to draw a picture of your space picnic! Can you have a go at writing the initial sounds for some of the items you draw too?

Love Buzz and Lottie



Week beginning 2nd October 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

What a fun week we have had here in Foundation, with lots of space-themed challenges and activities! This week we have been learning a brand new text based on the story 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy, all about a bear who goes on a little trip into space. We began the week by completing a 'Cold Task', which is a special piece of learning that the children complete at the beginning of a unit. Later in the year this will be a piece of writing, but at the moment the focus is on drawing pictures of key events and characters that are remembered from the story. We then spend a few weeks learning the story and making our own changes to it, before completing a 'Hot Task' at the end of the unit. It is always wonderful to see Cold Tasks and Hot Tasks side by side and marvel at how much progress the children make in their story telling, drawing and writing in just a few short weeks!

Alongside learning 'Whatever Next' and drawing our own storymaps based on the story, we have been busy making rockets from junk modelling, thinking about what items we would take with us to space, and acting out our own stories and adventures in our space station and rocket role play areas, to name but a few activities.

In Phonics this week we have learnt the sounds ck, e, u, and r, which you will find in your child's book bag today, along with the Rainbow Word 'to'. We really appreciate the time spent practising quick recall of these at home: it makes such a difference! It is also great if you can spend a few minutes each day practising blending some sounds together to read short words. We recommend starting with words containing a consonant and a vowel (CV words), such as 'at', 'it' and 'on', before moving on to words containing a consonant, vowel and consonant (CVC words), such as 'cat', 'mop' and 'ten'.

Our Maths learning this week has focused on how numbers can be composed of 1s, for example '1 and another 1 is 2' and '1 and 1 and 1 makes 3'.

We would like to say a big well done to all of the Ladybirds and Bumblebees for completing their first PE lesson this week too, as well as some History and RE learning. You are learning so many great new things!

As the children are now very settled with their morning routines, we ask that they begin to walk up the slope in the morning on their own or with a friend, if they are not already doing so.

We would also like to ask that the children carry their water bottles into school rather than putting them in their book bags, as we have had a few spillages and soggy bags this week.

Dates for your diaries:

- **Book week: week beginning Monday 9th October.**
- **PJ Night: Wednesday 11th October. 6pm- 7pm-** The children are invited to come back to school in their pyjamas for a bedtime story with some of their teachers. (We ask that you please remain in the school during this time.)
- **Parent Consultations: Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th October.**

Have a lovely weekend and should you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask, either by writing a message in your child's home-school diary or speaking to us at the end of the school day.

The Foundation Team