

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 us 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 30th September 2024

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. At the moment, the focus is on drawing pictures of key events and characters that are remembered from the story. We then encourage the children to add initial sounds and labels to match what they have drawn. 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 story maps 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 area, to name but a few activities.

In Maths this week, children have begun to develop their skills of 'conceptual' subitising. This is where they will begin to notice the sub-groups that can be perceived within a larger set, and recognise the whole at the same time. For example, they will see that Numberblock Four can be arranged with 2 blocks on top of another 2 blocks or as a line of 3 with 1 on top, and connect both to 4.

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'.

To finish the week, we enjoyed a small Harvest Festival with some local nurseries. We spoke about the meaning of harvest and shared some stories and songs with the younger children.

A huge thank you to all those who supported our Book Week! Whether that was through attending PJ Night or purchasing books from the fair. We are always grateful for the support with events like these.

Just a reminder that children should have a coat with them every day now, especially as the weather seems to change so quickly! Could we please also ask that you get your child to practice putting on their coat with minimal support, as this will help us enjoy more time outside!

Dates for your diaries

- **Friday 25th October – Staff Development Day (No children in school)**
- **Monday 4th November – Start of Term 2**

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

The Foundation Team