

Dear Ladybirds and Bumblebees,

This week we have learnt the Rainbow Word 'the'. Rainbow words are words that we cannot currently sound out and we just have to remember them! '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 21st September 2026

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. There is a link to our model text being retold on the website, on the useful links page. [Writing Model Texts - SANDGATE PRIMARY](#). Please listen to this with your child and practise if you can. 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 the children can remember 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 storytelling, 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 rocket role play area, to name but a few activities.

We have also been focusing on the story 'The Colour Monster' and thinking about which colours represent different feelings and emotions for us, and things that make us feel particular emotions. In our classrooms, we have Colour Monster displays where the children can move their photo to tell us how they are feeling throughout the day.

In Maths this week, we have been looking at how numbers can be composed of 1s, for example '1 and another 1 is 2' and '1 and 1 and 1 makes 3'.

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 lists. 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 with Mr Evans on Wednesday evening; we hope you found it useful and informative. Please do not worry if you were unable to attend, the presentation will be sent out via email soon. If you have any questions at all, do not hesitate to come and ask.

Thank you, also to those who attended our crafting workshops with Sarah Covetti (Speech and Language Therapist), Morag Hardis and Annette Sibbons (STLS Specialist Teaching and Learning Service). Together all adults are supporting our school within Foundation for children's speech and language. The craft workshop allowed you to follow instructions with your child to create a Bumblebee or Ladybird craft, introducing new vocabulary, which is why we use pre-teaching of vocabulary to support learning. We hope you found it useful and enjoyable.

A few reminders

- Children should arrive to school in PE kit on a **Monday** and **Friday** please as these are our PE days.
- Children should bring in a water bottle everyday (no squash please).
- Books are changed on the following days -
Tuesday - Animaphonics books (small book)
Wednesday - sharing books (large story book)
Friday Animaphonics books (small book)
Ideally, if all of the reading books and the home school diary stay in your child's book bag each day then we can easily change them. Please tick when you've read a book so we know you need a new one. Any questions please ask.

Finally, please could we request more donations of recycling to use in our junk modelling area. Small cardboard boxes or kitchen roll tubes are ideal.

Dates for your diary

- **Wednesday 23rd – Tuesday 29th September**- Book fair in the main hall. This takes place after school and you enter via the main reception after picking up your child.
- **Wednesday 21st October pm (time TBC)** – Writing Together Event (these will take place in our classrooms during the school day, more details to follow).
- **Friday 23rd October** – last day of term.
- **Monday 2nd November** – Staff Development Day (No children in school)
- **Tuesday 3rd November** - Children return to school

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

The Foundation Team

Key vocabulary for next week



Refers to where the story takes place.



Characters are the people, animals, or creatures that make the story interesting because they do things, have feelings, and face challenges. Characters can be real or imaginary, like a brave knight, a clever fox, or a talking robot.



Characters have different emotions in a story. Happy, sad, angry, upset, excited, scared, frightened.



history

of



transport

Understand how transport has changed over time.