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Headteacher: Mrs T Swinburne

Thursday 22nd September 2015

Dear Parent/Carer,

Settling in to key skills through play

This week may have been a short one but we have been busy with our learning in Reception! The children have loved the start of their Maths sessions and have shown excellent counting and number recognition through their play in the Malleable Area where we have been making currant buns. In our Phonics, we have learned a new sound each day and have been exploring ways to practise these sounds through our play during the day, from fishing for sounds in the Water Area, to hunting for letters in our Outdoor Reading Area. On Monday, we began to learn our Action Words, learning to read speedily a new word each day. The children love the challenge of this and are ready to impress you at home with their homework which was sent out today – please check your child's book bag. We have also seen lots of fantastic imaginative play in our Fire Station Role Play Area and are delighted to see the children already exploring mark making and writing through their role play which is such a fun way to become a confident writer.



Gabby made our sound of the day in playdough



Enjoying singing and counting in our first Maths lesson



Taking a break from fighting fires to do some writing

The week ahead

Next week, we will continue to introduce key learning routines – this time beginning our 'Write Dance' sessions which follow Silent Reading at the start of our afternoon. Write Dance is a fun way to learn a story and a sequence of actions to music, developing the motor control needed for writing. On Fridays, we celebrate the work we have done throughout the week by 'scrimbling' (making marks on a giant roll of paper) to the song we have learned in the week. We find this is

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such an effective way for our youngest learners to develop pencil control skills without realising that that is what they are doing!

You may also have noticed our Mud Kitchen developing this week and we are now ready for the grand opening on Monday! The children will have the opportunity to explore this area with an adult on Monday and then incorporate it as another fantastic area in which to learn through play. The Mud Kitchen gives us a rich opportunity to develop imaginative play, use purposeful Literacy and Numeracy and develop physical skills and the children are so excited to get stuck in! We will ensure children wear waterproof clothing and wellies when using this area but we appreciate your understanding if children's uniforms are not quite so pristine at the end of the day as they were at the start!

Also next week, we are greatly looking forward to going apple picking in our school orchard within our grounds and will be using our different senses to describe the apples in an apple tasting session, before baking with the apples on Thursday. We will be documenting this learning for a display for Wrenthorpe Apple Day in October. Thank you to all those who have sent donations for our weekly baking sessions – the children are so enthusiastic to get started with their cooking! This term, we will be using these sessions as a way to explore different ways to eat our healthy '5 a Day'.

Homework

As mentioned above, today your child was sent home with their new Homework Folder and their first set of Read Write Inc. Phonics Homework and Action Words Homework. We send homework out on Thursdays and ask that you [return homework folders the following Wednesday](#). We do keep a record of whether your child has completed their homework and encourage you to support your child to develop good habits with practising their learning at home and handing in homework punctually from the outset. Please look inside your child's Homework Folder for guidance about how to help your child with their home learning and feel free to come and chat with us if you have any questions. Further information and support will be provided at our [Read Write Inc. Workshop for parents on Tuesday 4th October at 9.15 a.m.](#) which we very much hope you will be able to attend.

Wishing you a lovely long weekend!

Yours sincerely,

Miss Ashton, Mrs Sellars and Miss Belford (the Reception Team)

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