

## Reception Newsletter- Week beginning: 22.01.24



**Term 3 topic- What happens in our world?**

**Our story of the week: - 'Handa's Surprise'**

**Another exciting and action packed week in Reception! Read on to find out about all the great activities we have participated in this week.**

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development:** We continue to try our best to listen to and look after our friends, helping each other in a variety of situations. When playing with our friends we have been remembering to share, listen to each other and use kind hands and kind words. In Jigsaw this week, we discussed never giving up until we reach our goal. We could think of lots of things that we found tricky at the start, but by practising and never giving up we managed to do it. We laughed a lot when Mrs Howell stamped her foot and said she wasn't very good at building a tall tower, but we all helped her to persevere! It made us feel very proud!

**Communication and Language-** We have continued talking about different countries in the world, particularly Africa where this week's book is set. Each topic introduces the children to new groups of words and they increasingly experiment with and enjoy using these new words in their role play. We loved investigating the different fruits in Handa's basket with our senses and we learnt lots of new vocabulary.

**Physical Development-** In the classrooms we have enjoyed a variety of activities on our malleable tables to help strengthen our fingers and develop fine motor skills. It was a really tricky job weaving fruit baskets like Handa's. We had to have careful fingers for weaving in and out but they look fantastic!

**Literacy-** We thoroughly enjoyed reading the book 'Handa's Surprise' and have continued to look at information books about our world. In our classroom we learnt about how to write a list, helping Handa to decide which fruits to put in her basket. Would it be the red juicy mango or the soft yellow banana? We used our Fred Fingers and pinched each sound before we wrote the word – we are very good at this now! We enjoyed talking to our friends and using the stick puppets to tell them a story using the story map. It was tricky to remember the story but we persevered and used the story book to help us.



### **Mathematics**

This week we have been practising recognising number patterns without counting – subitising. We were excellent magicians when Mrs Howell showed us number arrays and we could tell her the number of dots straight away! We also used the patterns to spot different ways to make up numbers to 5. We were already very good at doing this with 2 numbers but now we realise we can do it in more different ways.  $1+1+2=4$ ,  $1+1+1+1=4$  etc. We also weighed the fruits from Handa's basket on some weighing scales and found out that the pineapple was heavier than the banana. We can also be human weighing scales – ask us to show what balanced looks like!

### **Understanding the World**

Our book this week is set in Africa and we have been discussing how it is different to where we live, being much hotter and drier. We have been lucky enough to taste different fruits from around the world including tangerine, pineapple, mango, passion fruit and avocado. Mrs Howell was very impressed with how many children tried the new fruits. The passion fruit looked 'weird' and 'strange' but lots of the children tried the juice. We found the pips and seeds in the fruit and learnt that if we planted them and had the right weather, a new plant would grow!

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

We have made an amazing array of fantastic art work from our book this week which will all be making its way home to you soon. We have used a variety of skills to create colourful, woven baskets, eye catching fruit printing, made fruit basket hats and painted animals from the story. Please ask us about them.

### **Supporting learning at home**

- Can you help write a shopping list?
- Can you try any different fruit at home, it's always good to try something new!
- Please continue to practise getting dressed and fastening zips and buttons!
- Please read with your child every day. All children are taking home a phonics book matched to their phonics ability. We recommend 5-10 minutes daily.

### **Notes for next week 29.01.24**

- Please ensure your child has a warm winter coat, hat and gloves every day.
- Please send in book bags and water bottles every day.
- PE will continue on Friday's – please make sure kit is in school.
- We still have space for our Mystery Reader sessions. Please do sign up via the office (in order to keep it a secret for your child). Thank you to all that have already signed up – the children are loving it!

## **Have a lovely weekend!**