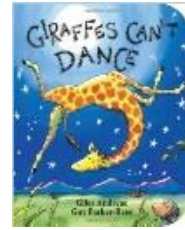


Reception Newsletter- Week beginning: 05.02.24

**Term 3 topic- What happens in our world?
Our story of the week- 'Giraffes Can't Dance'**

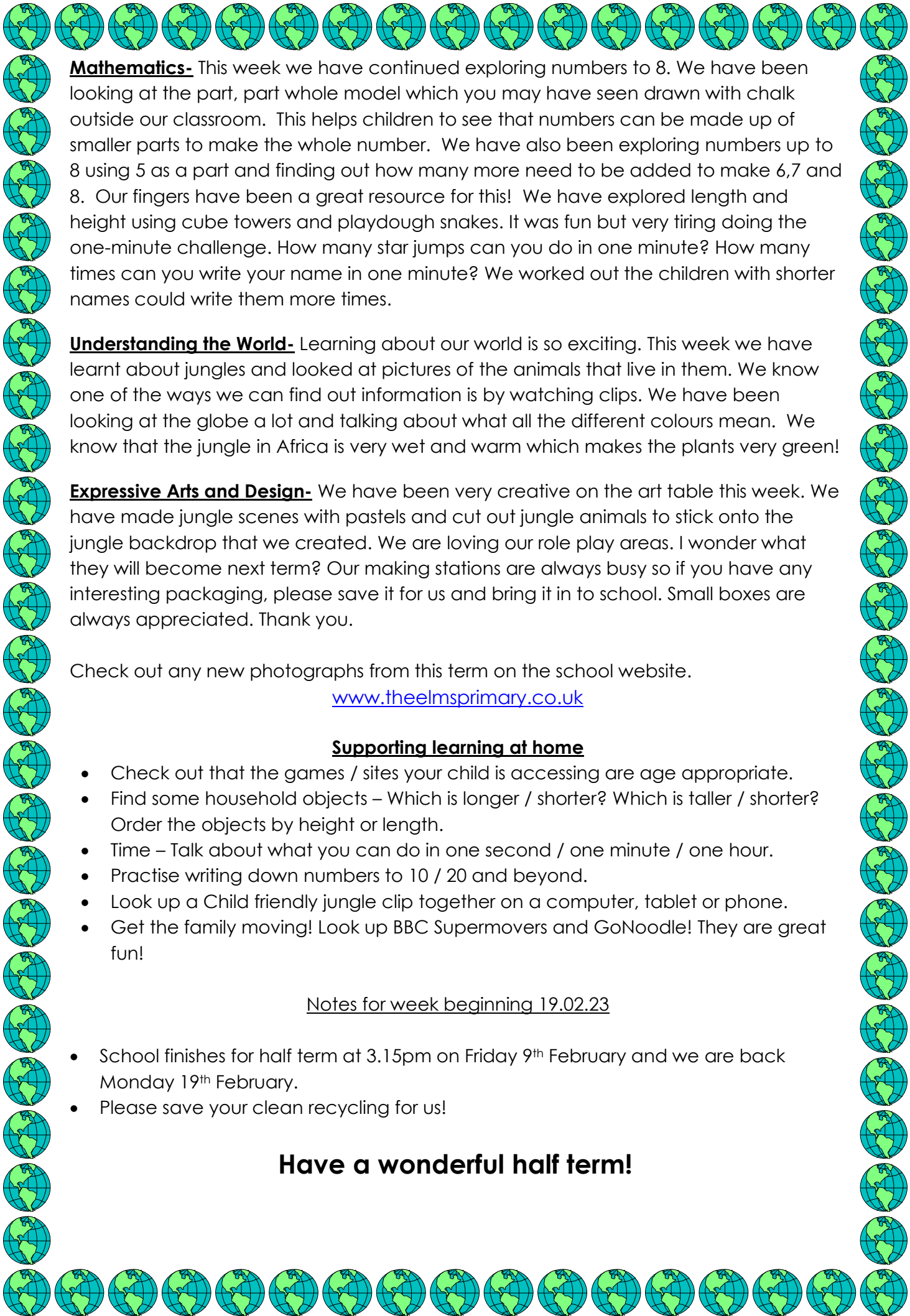


Personal, Social and Emotional Development- We continue to look out for each other, working as a team in our classrooms and working in pairs carrying out learning activities and discussions on the carpet. We know if we set our minds to something we want to be better at, keep trying and do not give up – we can achieve anything! We talked about how Gerald the giraffe from our story this week did not give up on his goal of dancing, even though others said he couldn't do it. We talked about using positive language – rather than saying, "It's too hard," we can say, "I can do it if I try really hard!" As this week is 'Children's Mental Health Awareness Week' we have been undertaking a daily 'Wellbeing' activity such as 'Going home with a smile' – talking about something that made us laugh out loud before we go home and 'Using the senses' to reduce anxiety, amongst other activities.

Communication and Language- We have really enjoyed class discussions this week and have listened to our friends' thoughts and ideas. We have had some lovely discussions about jungles, the animals that live in them and what it is like in the jungle. Ask us about the animals that live in the jungle. We have learned about camouflage and talked about why it is important for animals to be able to use their skin or fur patterns to blend into their environment. We are always excited to hear what the weekend bears have been up to. Who is going to have Barnaby Bear over the half term?

Physical Development- We are enjoying our outside time in all weathers, especially when we are wrapped up in appropriate clothing. We all loved our Jungle Dance! We watched lots of different dance moves on YouTube and tried dancing to lots of different music. We especially loved rock and roll! Dancing is a great way to exercise, have fun and improve mental health. Why not put on some tunes and dance about together at home. We have been exploring lots of different malleable materials this week such as shaving foam, playdough, slime and sand. We also have a multitude of activities around the class, and outside which help develop our fine motor skills. The children have found my post its and envelopes and have enjoyed writing letters to each other!

Literacy- We have really enjoyed reading the story 'Giraffes Can't Dance', a class favourite. We know there are different ways of finding out information, for example about giraffes. The children suggested reading an information book, visiting the place, going to the library or asking a grown-up. We also found out lots of interesting information on the internet and even watched some giraffes dancing. They really CAN dance! The children are trying really hard and showing great progress with their phonics. Every child has either a sound blending book, ditty or a book bag book that they bring home. Please practise reading these at home with your child. Home reading practise is so important. Remember to note down what you have read / practised.



Mathematics- This week we have continued exploring numbers to 8. We have been looking at the part, part whole model which you may have seen drawn with chalk outside our classroom. This helps children to see that numbers can be made up of smaller parts to make the whole number. We have also been exploring numbers up to 8 using 5 as a part and finding out how many more need to be added to make 6,7 and 8. Our fingers have been a great resource for this! We have explored length and height using cube towers and playdough snakes. It was fun but very tiring doing the one-minute challenge. How many star jumps can you do in one minute? How many times can you write your name in one minute? We worked out the children with shorter names could write them more times.

Understanding the World- Learning about our world is so exciting. This week we have learnt about jungles and looked at pictures of the animals that live in them. We know one of the ways we can find out information is by watching clips. We have been looking at the globe a lot and talking about what all the different colours mean. We know that the jungle in Africa is very wet and warm which makes the plants very green!

Expressive Arts and Design- We have been very creative on the art table this week. We have made jungle scenes with pastels and cut out jungle animals to stick onto the jungle backdrop that we created. We are loving our role play areas. I wonder what they will become next term? Our making stations are always busy so if you have any interesting packaging, please save it for us and bring it in to school. Small boxes are always appreciated. Thank you.

Check out any new photographs from this term on the school website.

www.theelmsprimary.co.uk

Supporting learning at home

- Check out that the games / sites your child is accessing are age appropriate.
- Find some household objects – Which is longer / shorter? Which is taller / shorter? Order the objects by height or length.
- Time – Talk about what you can do in one second / one minute / one hour.
- Practise writing down numbers to 10 / 20 and beyond.
- Look up a Child friendly jungle clip together on a computer, tablet or phone.
- Get the family moving! Look up BBC Supermovers and GoNoodle! They are great fun!

Notes for week beginning 19.02.23

- School finishes for half term at 3.15pm on Friday 9th February and we are back Monday 19th February.
- Please save your clean recycling for us!

Have a wonderful half term!