

Reception Newsletter- Week beginning: 16.09.24

Term 1 topic- Who am I? Who are my family?

Our story of the week- 'Anna Hibiscus' song' by Atinuke Lauren Tobia



What a busy week it has been! The weather has been beautiful and the children have spent a lot of the time outside exploring the environment.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development- In class we have been talking about expectations, praising good manners and making the right choices. Setting expectations from the very start ensures the children are aware of what is required and enables them to feel secure. The children are settling well into the routines and boundaries in Reception and are enjoying exploring their new surroundings. We have also been using our listening skills and remembering our school rules – be ready, be respectful, be safe! Class DoJo had been introduced to the children and they are very excited about getting value points. The computer makes a 'ping' noise when a child has received a value point for showing one of our school values. Mr Jacques will be writing to you soon with a parent login.

In our jigsaw session this week, we looked at different toys around the class and discussed which we liked and why. The children were asked if they have any of these toys or if they have different toys at home. Just like these toys we are all different. We are unique but part of our class family. This is what makes our school a wonderful place to be.

Communication and Language- We have had lots of discussions about ourselves this week and have been thinking about who is in our family. Thank you for your participation in sticker homework this week... 'Tell me what makes me happy.' The children were so keen to tell us what you had told them. Lots of children loved a good cuddle!

Physical Development-

We love the outdoors in Reception and use it every day. In PE this week we learnt that it is important to warm up our muscles before we start exercising. We pretended we were pirates. We had to walk the plank, hide when we shouted 'The Pirates are coming!' We had fun moving in different directions, and actions, so we practised jumping forwards and backwards over our treasure, from side to side. We had to scrub the floor as crew and played a game of catch the captain, which is very similar to what's the time mr wolf!

Ask us about Gonoodle! This is a fun activity break which helps us move around and makes us think! We love banana banana meatball!

We also continue to love dough disco. This strengthens the muscles in our fingers and hands to develop our fine motor skills, and help us draw and write. We have a little ball of playdough and manipulate it with our fingers and hands to music! Great fun! We have enjoyed using beads and pipe cleaners to practise our fine motor skills, to create our own friendship bracelets.

Literacy- We have loved reading and exploring our story of the week, 'Anna Hibiscus' song,' and have enjoyed our end of day stories. The children are also enjoying using our book corners to share stories and information books with their friends. We started our phonics sessions this week and have been practising orally blending with Fred Frog. We have some phonics stay and play sessions coming up so please do sign up for a slot.

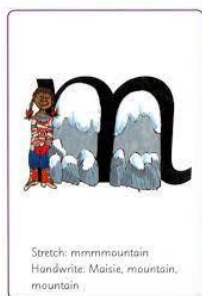
Mathematics- We have been doing lots of counting and have been using lots of positional language through our play. The children have been investigating the Numicon and have been very impressed when they've filled the Numicon tiles without leaving any gaps – well done! This week we have also played lots of matching games. All the children have been amazing at looking at small details to find items that match.

Understanding the World- We have looked at Amazing Africa this week as this is where Anna Hibiscus is from. She hid in the Mango tree in the story and we have had great conversations about our favourite fruit! We have also looked at African patterns and talked about the earthy colours that are used. Whilst we were digging in the sandpit, Blossom class found a large frog. It was very exciting rescuing it and watching it hop around!

Expressive Arts and Design- We have printed with different objects to make African patterns this week. We also love to explore paint freely. We even ended up painting with our hands! Lovely and messy! We enjoyed our book of the week, 'Anna Hibiscus' so much, we created a picture from the book using pastels and collage. Our role play areas are busy every day and a great way to develop communication and interaction between the children.

Supporting learning at home

- Challenge your child to dress and undress themselves! Getting changed for PE this week was a challenge so helping teach your child how to dress and underdd independently would be greatly appreciated.
- Challenge them to put on their coat and fasten their shoes! If your child is wearing laces, please either teach them how to tie them up or think about changing their shoes to Velcro. The staff are spending a lot of time tying shoe laces.
- Play some matching games
- Recap the sounds we have learnt at school this week...



Notes for next week 23.9.24

- Remember coats, book bags and water bottles (with only water in please) to be in school every day.
- Mrs Henman and Mrs Smith are our wonderful HLTAs so you may see them around the Reception area.
Acorn – Mrs Smith all day Friday
Blossom – Mrs Henman 11am-3pm Monday and Friday.
- Please can you make sure PE kit is kept in school all term.
- Don't forget to sign up for our stay and play phonics sessions. A sign up sheet is available outside the classrooms.
- This will be the last paper newsletter. All newsletters will be emailed out via parentpay from now on. Please look out for it.

Have a lovely weekend!