

Dear Parents and carers,

In our literacy this week, we have been learning the sounds 'ai', 'ee', 'igh' and 'oa'. We explained to the children that these sounds are known as digraphs and trigraphs. These are two letters or three letters to make one sound. We are practising identifying the digraphs and trigraphs and saying the sounds that they make. We have also been practising writing these sounds. Please ensure that your child is writing their ascenders and descenders correctly and that they are using lower case letters.

Can your child identify the digraphs and trigraphs in words? Do they come at the beginning, middle or end of words? Can they read any words which contain these letters, and the ones they have previously learnt? If you show words containing digraphs and trigraphs, encourage your child to spot the sound first, then sound out the word. You could play phonics games on 'Phonics play' to help your child to familiarise themselves with these sounds. We recommend 'pick a picture', 'tricky word trucks' and 'buried treasure'.

Please continue to read with your child at home, writing in their reading record each time you have heard them. A little time spent reading every day makes such a difference. Please also practise reading the flashcards with your child.

This week we have been looking at addition in maths. We used a range of objects to encourage the children to count each group, then combine the two groups to find the total. We also used ten frames to support the children with adding. We looked at the order of the numbers when adding, for example, $2+3$ would have the same total as $3+2$. We discussed how it is easier to add the biggest number first so that we can count on a smaller amount. Can your child count objects from around your house? Can they say a number sentence aloud?

This week we have been learning about advent. We read the Nativity story in class again and have spoken about who the key people in the story are, including Mary, Joseph and Jesus. We then looked at advent wreaths, advent candles, and the significance of these. Each day in class we will be lighting an advent candle and using an interactive advent calendar. We have also written advent prayers in class. Can your child write an advent prayer at home? Could they draw an advent wreath and discuss what the candles stand for?

If your child comes home wearing one of our values badges, please remember to put it on their uniform each day and to return them on a Thursday.

Have a relaxing weekend,

Natasha Lewis, Laura Mercurio, Tracey Mansfield and the EYFS team