

Dear Parents and carers,

In our literacy this week, we have been learning the sounds 'oo', both long and short 'oo', 'ar' and 'or'. 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 subtraction in maths. We used the song 'five little speckled frogs' to introduce the idea of subtraction and then moved onto using tens frames to visualise objects being removed. Some children have tried to write their number sentences using the correct mathematical signs. We discussed how when you are subtracting, the number you take away is lower. Can your child tell you their number sentence aloud when they are taking something away from a group of objects? Or if they are eating their dinner can they count how many pieces of food they started with and then when they eat a piece of food how many they have left?

This week we are still learning about advent. We open the online advent calendar each day and read the facts that it tells us for that day. Can your child tell you any of the facts they have heard so far? We also have an advent candle that we light each day. Can your child tell you the rhyme we say when we light it? We have also sung our nativity songs. Thank you for the costumes, they all looked lovely.

We have been writing letters to Father Christmas this week and have also sent him an email. He even sent us a reply! Can your child remember anything that Father Christmas said in his reply email?

Have a relaxing weekend,

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