

Dear Parents and carers,

In our literacy this week, we have been learning the sounds 'ch', 'sh', 'th' and 'ng'. We explained to the children that these sounds are known as digraphs, two letters to make one sound. We are practising identifying the digraphs and saying the sounds that they make. We have also been practising writing these sounds. Can your child practise forming the letters at home using the templates provided? 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 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, 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 the digraphs. 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 one more and one less in maths. We started the week by ordering the numbers to 10 then 20. We explained the concept of one more and one using cubes first, adding one more or removing one each time. We then used a number line to practise looking at the number that comes before or after. Can your child count objects round your home then say what one more or one less would be? Can they say it as a sentence, for example 'one more than 6 is 7'.

This week we have continued to look at the story of Elmer. We used this as a stimulus for exploring information books and asking questions. We thought about what we would like to know about different animals and where we could find the answers to our questions. We reminded the children that a question is something we can respond to or something we ask when we want to learn more. Can your child ask you questions about animals? Can they use non-fiction books or the computer to find the answer?

We have explored the nativity story this week thinking about why Christmas is such an important celebration for Christians. We spoke about it being the birth of Jesus and how Angel Gabriel told Mary that she would have God's son. We gave the children a wooden nativity scene to explore and have been so impressed by their retelling. Can your child tell you the story at home? Can they remember what the gifts were that the three kings brought?

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