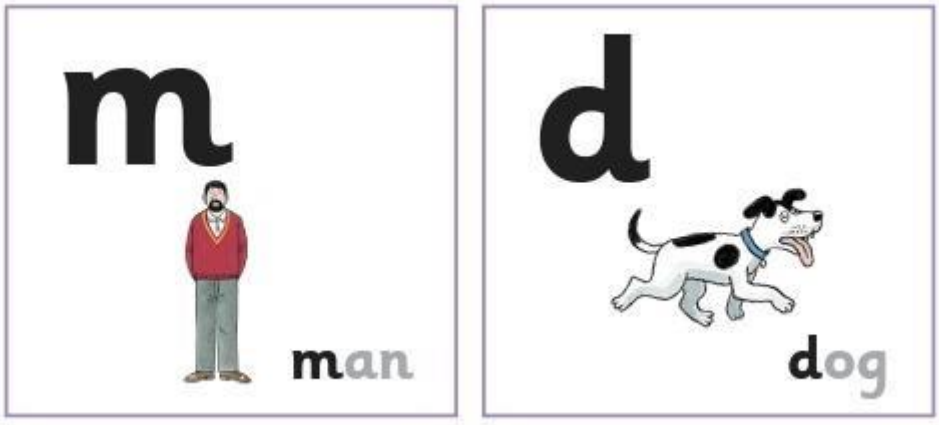
ST JAMES
Preparatory School

Reception Newsletter: Autumn Term, Week 6

What have we explored this week?

This week's Phonics sounds:



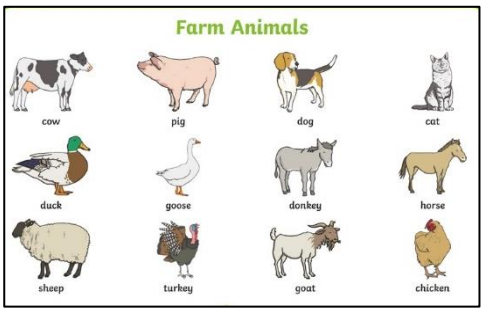
Please do use the Phonics keyrings and tricky word bookmarks to recap the purple sounds and Phase 2 tricky words.

In English, we have been innovating on the Gingerbread Man story and creating our own class story. We changed the characters and used a sentence structure to help us. Here is the story structure so you can have a go at home:

Beginning	Middle	End
Once upon a time, there was a _____ who had a _____ man. **Unfortunately**, the _____ man ran and ran. Stop, stop said the woman. But the _____ man said run, run.	**So**, the ____ ran until they met a _____. Stop, stop said the ____ But the _____ man said run, run. **So**, the woman and the _____ ran until they got to a river.	The ____ man met a fox - a _____fox, a _____ fox. Quick jump onto my _____ **said** the fox. My _____ **are** wet. Jump onto my _____ **said** the fox. **Unfortunately**, the fox ate him up.

The children creatively chose 2 animals to make their new story. We looked at word mats and pictures of animals for some ideas.

We will share some of the children's finished stories next week.



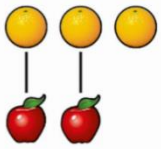
We have been comparing amounts this week in Maths, using the words ‘more’, ‘less’ and ‘fewer’. This topic is important because it lays foundations for addition and subtraction. It introduces comparing groups of objects up to 10, prompting children to identify whether a group contains more or fewer, or whether the groups contain the same quantity.

Children are taught to do this using the strategies of subitising, representing and matching one-to-one correspondences, in addition to their instincts. The topic also teaches children to focus on the quantity and not the size of objects, leading to a secure understanding of the relative values of numbers.

Children are asked to represent more or fewer than a given number, leading to them finding the difference between two numbers up to 10.

Importance of this topic

- Preparing for addition and subtraction
- Comparing groups
- Identifying ‘more’, ‘fewer’ and ‘the same’
- Subitising
- Representing quantities
- Matching with correspondence



- Focusing on number rather than size
- Representing comparative quantities
- Finding differences

During Forest School this week, the children enjoyed making leaf creations. We had caterpillars, lions, monsters, unicorns and even a boat. They threaded leaves onto a pipe cleaner and used a green piece of paper at the end to make the ‘face’. They also had hot chocolate and marshmallows again over a fire. This is the highlight of the Forest School sessions!

The children were lucky enough to have their first Reception cooking lesson with Chef Suzie this week. They were beautifully behaved and they made some delicious pear cake. Please see the recipe on the next page if you would like to make it at home yourselves!

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Swedish Pear Cake

This fabulous and fool-proof seasonal cake fills any gap from pud to tea time to elevenses – perfect for this time of year!

Makes about 10 slices

Ingredients:

3 eggs
150g caster sugar
250g flour
1 ½ tsp baking powder
150g butter + a couple of knobs
3 pears, peeled and cut
into large bite-sized chunks
¼ tsp cinnamon
3 tbsp golden granulated sugar
for the top

Method:

1. Pre-heat oven 175ºC/350ºF.
2. Whisk the eggs and sugar either by hand or in a mixer until thick and pale.
3. Sift in the flour and baking powder, and fold gently until all combined.
4. Melt the butter in 240ml hot water and beat into the mixture.
5. Grease an oven-proof frying pan (25cm x 5cm deep) with a knob of butter, then pour the batter in.
6. Drop the pieces of pear into the mix – don't worry if it's pretty crowded in there.
7. Brush the top with melted butter and sprinkle liberally with golden granulated sugar and some cinnamon.
8. Put into oven for 40-50 mins, then take it out and leave to cool in the pan for 10 minutes.
9. Run a knife round the edge and turn out onto a plate, then flip again so the apples are on top.
10. Serve hot or room temp with dairy of your choice ....or not!

We have been talking about autumn in class this week, in lessons and during Play and Explore. On Monday, we went on an Autumn Walk and talked about all of our senses. In Play and Explore, we have been painting leaves, making tissue paper leaves, feeling natural materials in playdough, smelling spices in playdough and counting natural objects in a sensory tray.

Things to Remember

- **Reading records:** please do send in your child's yellow reading record every day along with their reading book. If you could please write in it every day so that we know that your child has read.