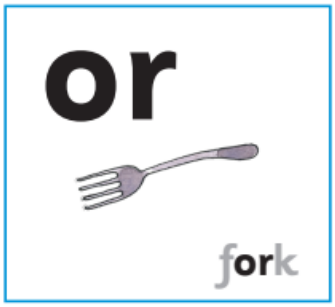
ST JAMES
Preparatory School

Reception Newsletter: Summer Term, Week 6

What have we explored this week?

This week in Reception, we have been carrying out Phonics and Maths assessments with the children. These help us see the progress they've made in their learning over the year and identify any areas where they may need extra support. The children have worked really hard, and we're proud of all they've achieved this year.

This week's Phonics sounds:



Have a go at reading the sentences from this week:

/or/ or

My red top was worn and torn!

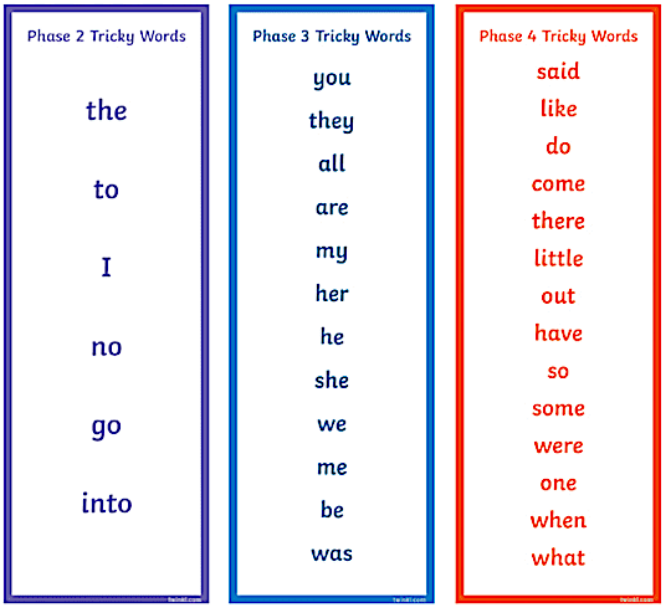
The short storm frightens the stork off.

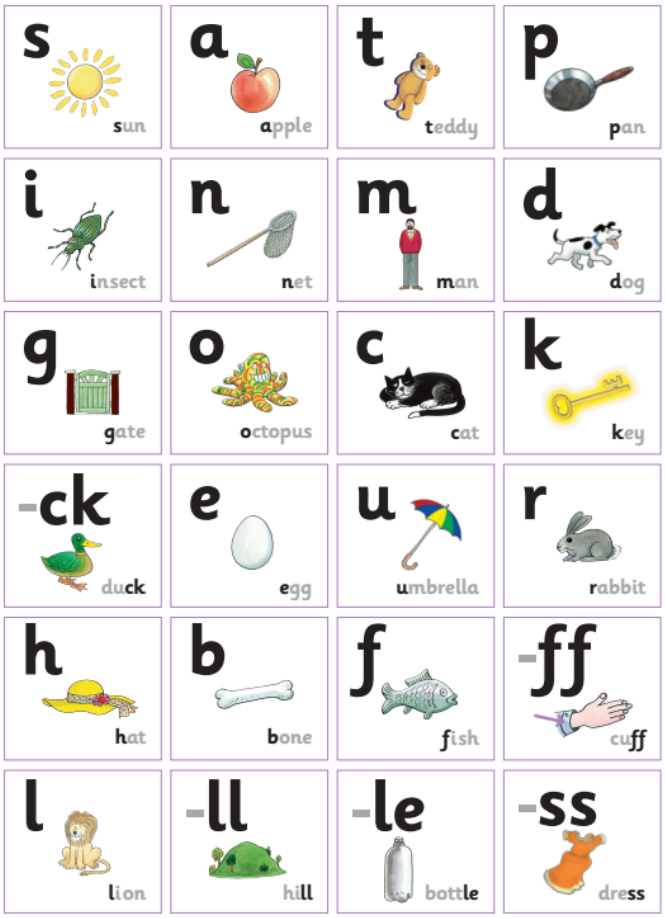
/ur/ ur

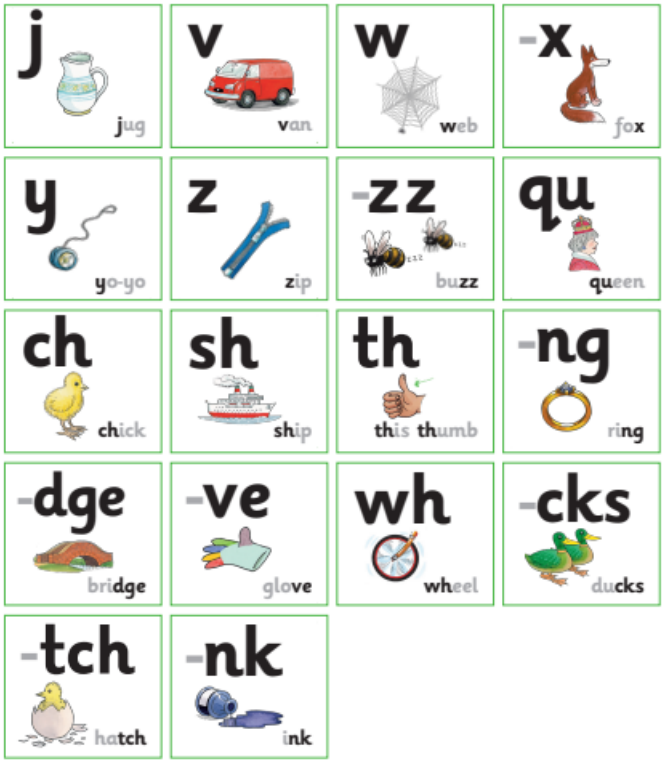
It is my turn to hurl the hoop to Burt.

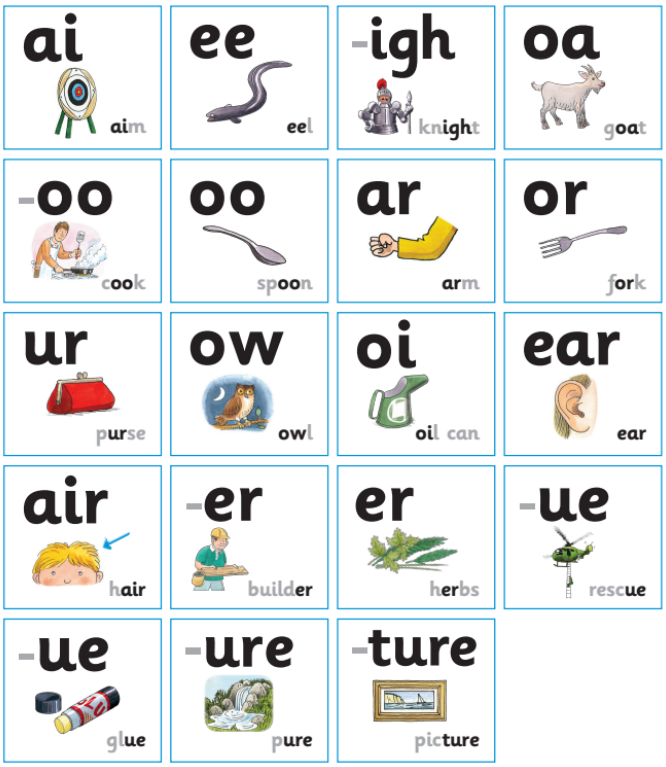
The turnip is stuck! It might get too big and burst!

During the assessments, we have noticed that the children are finding the green and blue Phonics sounds hard to remember, as well as the tricky words. Please do keep practising using the Phonics keyring as well as the tricky word bookmarks with your child. They will need to know all of them by the end of the year:









We had a wonderful trip to the Transport Museum on Monday, which started out with a long journey on the bus and tube, helping to spark interest in transport before we arrived. They then enjoyed exploring Covent Garden then playing in a transport themed play area at the museum. The children loved touring the museum and travelling back in time to see how transport has changed through the ages. They even had a special guest time traveller who they helped to get their time travelling device working again. This amazed some of the children who really believed in the magic!

All Aboard
BUS 1

BUS 1

OMNIBUS

London 1800

We have been busy watching the changes of our reception butterflies. Over the weeks the children have been observing with fascination the lifecycle from caterpillar to chrysalis and then last week we had five beautiful butterflies. We had a magical time on Friday releasing them into the wild. The children were so patient and sweet, calling 'Bye bye butterfly' as they flew away.

It was so lovely to see so many of you at lunchtime on Tuesday and Thursday this week. We hope you enjoyed the food and spending some social time with the children. They told us how they loved it and wish it could happen every day!

The children had a fun time during the cooking session this week, making lemon cheesecake together. They enjoyed helping with each step and worked well as a team. There was lots of laughter and excitement as they created their desserts.

Here is the recipe:

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‘Licious Lemony Cheesecake

Ingredients:

150g digestive biscuits
65g butter
35g light brown soft sugar
200g full fat cream cheese
100g caster sugar
300ml double cream
2 lemons, zested then juiced
½ tsp vanilla extract
2 tbsp lemon curd
A passion fruit (if you like!)

Method:

1. First, line your loaf tin with greaseproof paper.

2. Melt the butter in a small pan and put the biscuits into a food bag.

3. Now use the rolling pin to bash the biscuits until they look like a sandy beach, then tip into a mixing bowl.

Method (cont):

4. Stir the light brown sugar into the melted butter, then pour into the biscuit crumbs and give it all a good stir to coat.

5. Spoon it into the bottom of your loaf tin and press to pack it together using the back of the spoon. Pop it in the fridge to firm up.

6. Give your mixing bowl a quick but thorough wipe-out with kitchen paper, then using a wooden spoon to beat together the cream cheese and caster sugar until smooth.

7. Give your mixing bowl a quick but thorough wipe-out with kitchen paper, then using a wooden spoon, beat together the cream cheese and caster sugar until smooth.

8. Slowly mix in the juice of 1.5 lemons, all zest and the vanilla extract.

9. Separately whip the double cream until it forms soft peaks – take care not to overwhip! - and then gently fold it into the cream cheese in two loads.

10. Taste (YUM!) and add rest of the lemon juice if you fancy it a bit more lemony.

11. Spoon it over the biscuit base, and give it a couple of good firm bangs on the work surface: this is to jolt out any air bubbles and make them rise to the surface.

12. Lay a dinner plate, or something similar (about 25cm across), on the greaseproof paper; draw around it and then cut it out.

13. Fold it in half three times then open up the pocket that's been created and spoon the lemon curd into it.

14. Fold the open end over to keep things tidy(ish) and cut the tip off the other end.

15. Squeeze out fat lines of curd across the top at regular intervals, then super-lightly drag a cocktail stick down it lengthways – you don't really want to go into the cream if possible.

16. Finish by scraping out a passion fruit and scattering on the seeds, if you fancy.

17. Chill for a couple of hours (you and the cheesecake!) before tucking in.

It's 'LICIOUSLY LEMONY!!

By the end of Reception, the children will be assessed against the Early Learning Goals (ELGs).

Each week, we will be sending you an area of the EYFS curriculum with activities that you can do to help your child achieve the ELGs. This week we are looking at Communication and Language:

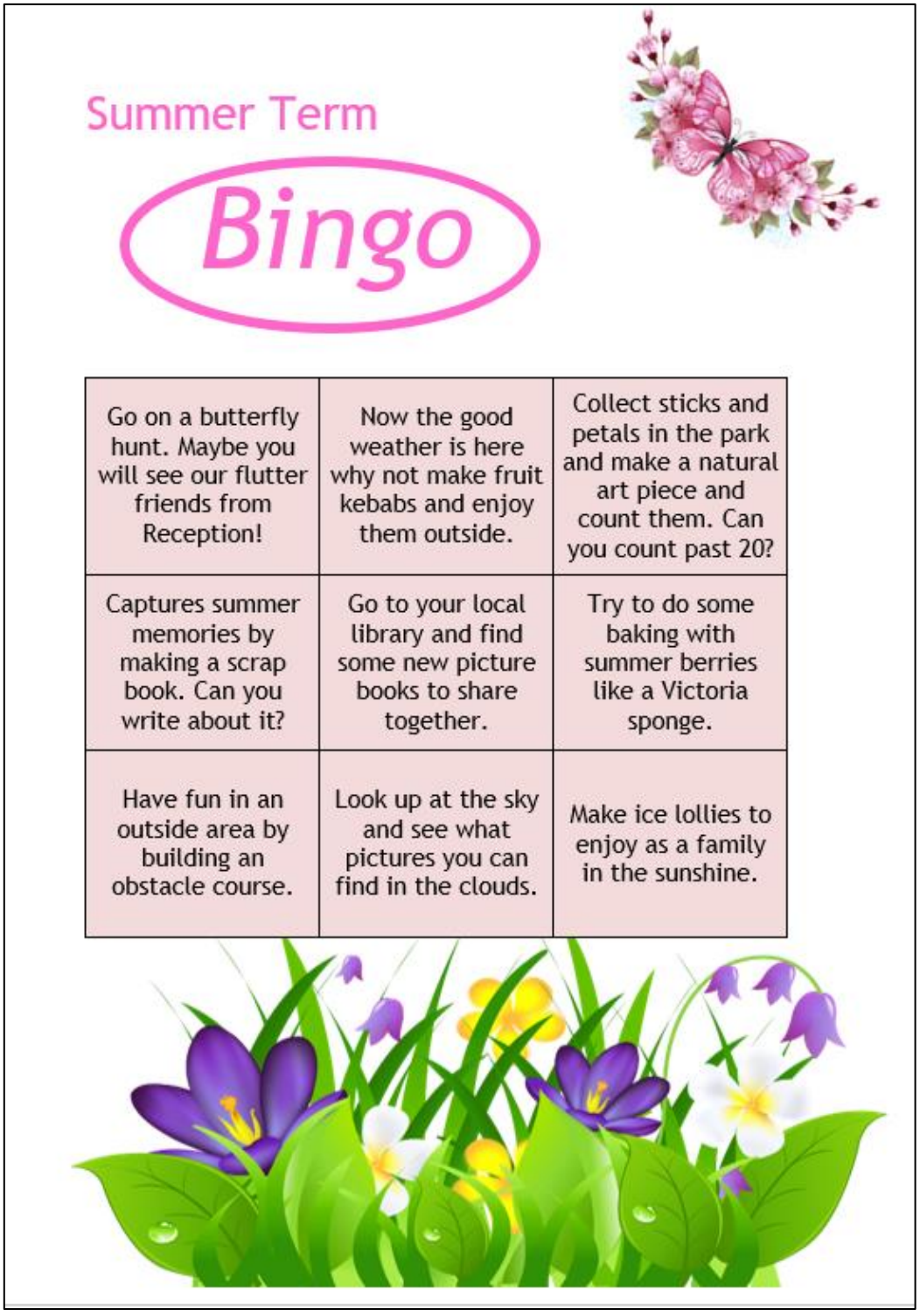
Area of Learning	Aspect	Early Learning Goals
Communication and Language (C&L)	Listening, Attention and Understanding	• Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions. • Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding. • Hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with their teacher and peers.
	Speaking	• Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary. • Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate. • Express their ideas and feelings about their experiences using full sentences, including use of past, present and future tenses and making use of conjunctions, with modelling and support from their teacher.

Communication and Language

- Read a range of books together, including non-fiction. Encourage your child to be curious and ask questions about things they want to find out more about or do not understand. You could pause at certain points in the book to check your child understands what has been read.
- Look back through photos and talk about previous experiences you have had together. Model how to speak in full sentences and use past tense language correctly. You could also talk about what you would like to do together in the future, to practise using future tense language.
- Encourage lots of talk at home by holding conversations. Start a conversation on a topic that interests your child, or pose an open-ended question, such as, 'What do you look forward to when you wake up?' Try to keep the conversation going through several back-and-forth exchanges, but try not answer each time with another question, make comments in response too.
- Try and use new words throughout the day to expand your child's vocabulary. You could swap a word for another. For example, instead of saying 'it is a bright colour', you could say 'it is a very vivid colour'. You could also repeat sentences back to your child and add in extra descriptive words. For example, if your child says 'I like apples,' you could say, 'Yes, I like juicy, ripe apples too'.
- To also support language, model correct sentence structure and words to your child – instead of overcorrecting them. You can repeat words or sentences back to them in a natural way. For example, if your child says 'I buyed a banana' say 'Yes, you bought a banana.'
- At bedtime, instead of reading a story, you could read some child-friendly poems. Encourage your child to discuss what they think the poem is about and talk about new words and their meaning.

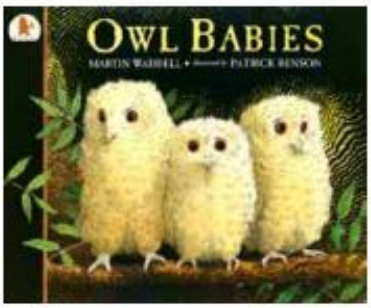
Things to Remember

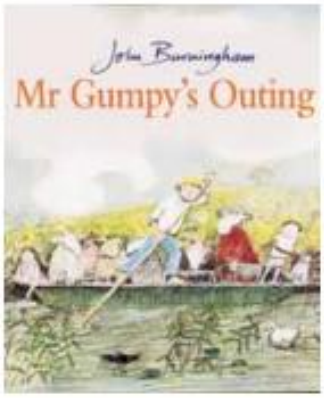
- There will be a Book Look for all classes on Wednesday 4th June at 8am.
- Parent Teacher Interviews for Reception will take place on Friday 6th June. Please book your appointment on SchoolCloud.
- Please do make sure that you drop your children off **by 8.20am**. We have so many children coming in later and this is disrupting learning. Please note that pick up time is **3.15pm.**
- Please find a half term holiday homework in your child's folder:

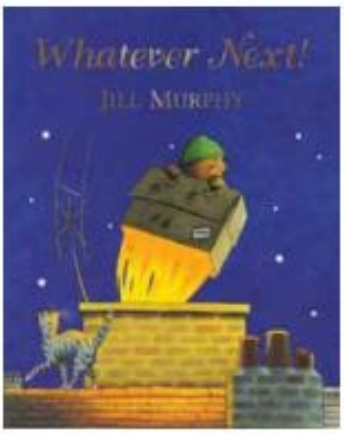


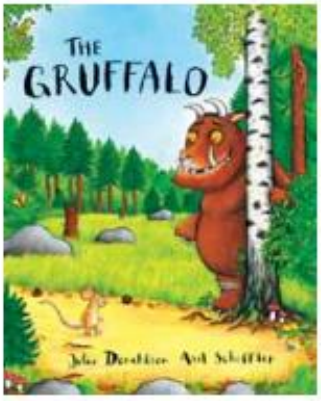
- During the holiday, we will not be sending home reading books. We will keep your child's reading record at school, but still encourage you to go to your local library and enjoy books. If you would like some ideas, you might like to read some of the books from the Pie Corbett Reading Spine:

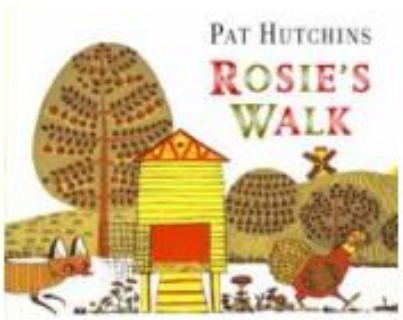
The books for the 4–5 age group build on the Nursery selection. They still mainly use patterned language, but begin to have a stronger emotional connection with the reader. There is also plenty to discuss and to wonder about. Many of them lend themselves to retelling and creating new versions or further adventures featuring the same characters.

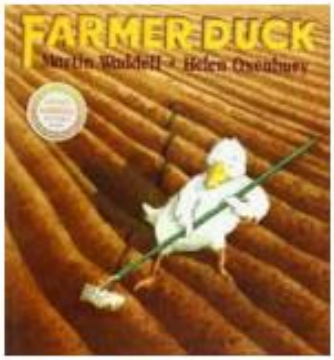


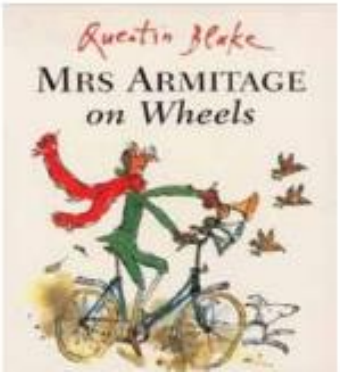


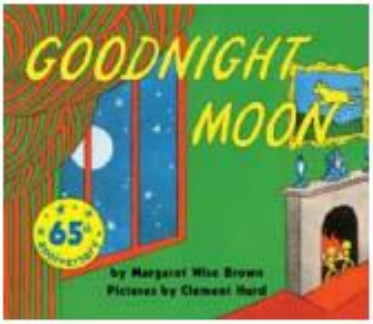












A note about PSHEE

To coincide with our PSHEE topic of 'Changing Me' over the next half term, we will also be discussing the NSPCC's Talk PANTS rules in our lessons. During these discussions we will aim to teach our children the following important safety skills without giving explicit information or telling scary stories. These are the PANTS rules:

P: Privates are private.

A: Always remember your body belongs to you.

N: No means no.

T: Talk about secrets that upset you.

S: Speak up, someone can help.

The lessons empower children, in an age-appropriate way, to recognise their rights to their own bodies, say no to touch that is unwanted, and tell someone if they feel uncomfortable. The lessons include activities which help children understand:

- Appropriate and inappropriate touch
- Their right to say no to things that make them feel upset or uncomfortable
- The names for parts of the body
- Who to turn to if they ever feel upset or worried

If you would like to know more about the NSPCC's campaign, including a short film and parent guide to help you continue the 'Talk PANTS' conversation at home, more information can be found at:
nspcc.org.uk/pants

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch.