

Weekly Learning Letter

Early Years 05.05.26

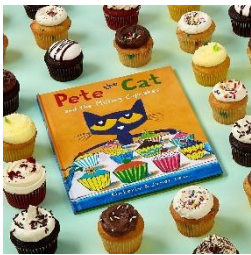
This week in Early Years...



This week in class, the children have been enjoying a range of engaging learning activities linked to our familiar story, *Little Red Riding Hood*. We spent time discussing what type of 'bag' Little Red might have used to carry food to her Grandma, encouraging the children to think carefully about materials, size and purpose. They shared their ideas confidently, using descriptive language and explaining their choices to their friends. This activity supported both speaking skills and creative thinking.

Alongside our story work, we have been working hard on our Class Assembly songs. The children have been practising regularly, learning the words, actions and cues needed for a confident performance. They have shown great enthusiasm, teamwork and focus during rehearsals. We are very proud of the effort they are putting in and are looking forward to sharing their performances with you next Thursday and Friday.

Maths



In Maths this week, the children have been learning through the story *Pete the Cat and the Missing Cupcakes*, which has helped make number work fun and meaningful. We focused on consolidating composition to 5, developing a secure understanding of number bonds to 5. Using the familiar story context, the children explored simple take away (reduction) problems and explained them clearly using the 'First, Then, Now' structure. For example, *First* Pete had 5 cupcakes, *Then* some went missing, and *Now* fewer remain.

The children also represented these reduction stories pictorially using a tens frame, supporting their understanding of how numbers change when items are taken away. This visual approach helped strengthen reasoning, reinforce mathematical language, and build confidence when explaining their thinking.

English



In English this week, the children have been exploring how to use their five senses to create detailed and engaging setting descriptions. We focused on imagining a forest setting, thinking carefully about what they might see, hear, smell, touch and feel. The children described tall trees, crunchy leaves underfoot, birds singing and the fresh, earthy smells of the forest. We then compared this with a city setting, encouraging the children to notice clear contrasts. They talked about seeing tall buildings and busy roads, hearing loud traffic and sirens, smelling food from shops, and feeling hard pavements beneath their feet. By discussing these differences, the children developed their descriptive vocabulary and learned how using the senses can help bring a setting to life for the reader. This work supported both imagination and language development.

Phonics

This week we have focussed on reading and spelling polysyllabic words and CCVCC/CCCVC/CCCVCC words e.g. spring, thrust, street,

We have learnt to read tricky words: **come, were, some**

We have learnt to spell tricky words: **they, all**

Partnered Reading

Books read this week:

Rock Pooling, Pandas and Big Fat Rat

Your child will be able to tell you which book they have read, and you can access these on Bug Club.

Reminders

Turtles Forest School continues next week.

Please can we remind you, especially as the days are getting warmer, can children have pure water in their bottles. We unfortunately get a lot of wasps and if there is juice or cut up lemons in the children's bottles we attract more wasps which can be quite difficult to manage. Can your child also come to school with sun cream already applied and some easy to apply cream and **sun hat**.

Please would you also remind your children that they are not allowed to bring toys into school. Perhaps you could take the time to check their bags before they come into school as we have had quite a few difficulties with toys getting lost or broken. Thank you.

To support your child's learning at home this week you could...

- Can you create a story using some of your toys? First there were_____. Then _____ joined. Now there are_____.
- Have a look in your shopping bag collection, what shopping bag do you think is the best? Discuss your reasoning with someone at home.