

Foundation

Thank you to those parents who attended the 'Early Years Curriculum Meeting', we hope that you found the evening informative. Please do make use of the Reading and Maths handout ideas when supporting your child at home (extra copies can be located in the entrance to Southfield).

This week our focus has been on pets and the highlight of the week was a visit from one of our school dogs, Bonnie. Her owner, Mr Brent, talked to the children about all the things Bonnie needs to keep her healthy and happy. The children asked him some interesting questions such as, "does Bonnie use a knife and fork?" and, "does she like swimming?" We also enjoyed hearing about the children's pets (real and those they would like!).

The children have been getting changed into and out of their PE kit. The kit will be sent home on a Wednesday for washing and can be brought back to school for Tuesday PE lessons.

This week in Maths we have been practising using positional language (e.g. on, over, under, beside, left and right) to describe where toys are in the classroom. This week for homework, we would like you to use some of your child's imaginary small world toys, for example, zoo, jungle or farm animals, dinosaurs, Lego figures etc. to encourage mathematical thinking and reasoning. You could encourage your child to:

- group the figures according to a rule e.g. animal type, size . . .
- develop language to compare and contrast e.g. bigger, taller . . .
- use positional language to describe where they are e.g. next to, opposite, far, close, on top, underneath, inside, etc.
- count the figures
- estimate group size
- compare group size (e.g. "Are there more cows than pigs?")
- ask questions like, "if I want to have a farm as well, how could you share some of your animals?" or "how will the farmer know if any of the animals are lost?"

Please share any findings using Parent Postcards or email photographs of your activities.

Next week, we will be thinking about Autumn. You may like to start this topic off by going for an autumn walk with your child, encouraging them to stomp through the fallen leaves and collect any autumnal things they find.

Best Wishes
The Foundation Team