

Foundation

Monday morning started with the shocking finding that Mrs Smith was missing! The Slime Monster had left a message saying that he had taken her. This led to lots of Wanted Posters being made, plans drawn up to free her and traps created! Luckily, our posters worked and Mrs Smith was back in school the next day, none the worse for her terrible experience!

We have also finished Phonics Booklet 2. The booklet can now be kept at home. Please keep practising the sounds, especially the digraphs and trigraphs as experience tells us children find these hard to recognise and to remember how to write. Repetition and praise really help! We will spend the remainder of the year consolidating what we have learnt.

This week Owls and Hedgehogs have been to visit The Wild Place and the children all had a lovely time, many of them not wanting to return to the classroom as they loved being outdoors! We are fortunate enough to have Mrs Parnell, who is a qualified Forest School practitioner, to lead the sessions. Mrs Parnell's expertise in this area is most welcome; she reports:

The Wild Place is an area where the children can be introduced to new experiences to try whilst also offering time for the children to develop their self-confidence and self-esteem. It is a perfect opportunity for building on and making relationships with each other, whilst working as a team.

This week the children have enjoyed learning a new game called 123 Where are you? Birds and mammals use sounds to communicate and keep in touch with each other. 123 Where are you? was devised as an orientation safety game so if children got lost or couldn't see each other, they could call 123... where are you? until they were reunited with each other. This tends to be a favourite game and the children certainly enjoyed it. Some of the children also experienced the use of tool skills in the Wild Place. I introduced stick whittling to the children by giving them a safety talk on the use of a peeler and how to wear a safety glove on their helper hand. The children whittled sticks and then tied wool around them to make them into wands! Whilst this was taking place the children enjoyed lots of other experiences of making mud pies in the mud kitchen, tree climbing, den making, and collecting natural objects. At the end of the session the children enjoyed a warm hot drink of blackcurrant juice and some reflection time on what they had achieved and enjoyed. Next week it will be Squirrels and Foxes turn to visit the Wild Place and experience whittling.

This week in Maths, we have been counting and ordering numbers to 20. For homework this week, we would like you to make a timeline with your child of special events that have occurred in their life, for example their birthdays, a birth of a sibling, a special holiday etc. Encourage your child to brainstorm important events and then help set them out in the order they occurred. This will help them learn to use numbers while developing a sense of chronology. Questions you may like to ask include:

- How do you know this event goes here?
- Tell me about your timeline.

- Will you keep that/them for your timeline?
- How could you show me how old you were?
- What do you see? What are you noticing?
- How old were you when this happened?

We hope you have received your child's report today in their book bag, on their achievements over the last term, and we look forward to meeting with you and discussing the report as well as any questions you may have during our parent/teacher meeting. Your day and time for this should have been confirmed by email.

Next week we will be reading the story 'Eliot, Midnight Superhero ' where we will be thinking about how we can save the planet, as well as learning about Chinese New Year.

Best wishes,
The Foundation Team