

Foundation

This week we went on a listening walk round the Pre Prep. We could hear traffic on the busy road, children in their classrooms and, if we listened hard, birds! We have also been thinking of different sounds our voices can make and words that rhyme. The children have drawn a self-portrait and these have been put on display in our classrooms. Balance bike lessons this afternoon proved a big hit. We have split each class into half so if your child is not doing it this half-term, they will after the October half-term break. Again photos of this can be seen on the VLE. Handwashing has added significance this year and so we keep practising it. This time we used oil and cocoa to be dirt and germs so the children really could see how much soap, scrubbing and time it took to get those hands sparkly.

We hope you are enjoying looking at the things the children choose to do in the classroom via Tapestry. We want to remind you that we also add photos of whole class activities and displays on the VLE. For example, some photos of the children enjoying their lunch can be seen here: <https://stfaiths.fireflycloud.net/foundation-1/foundation-gallery>.

This afternoon, we have sent home a reading book for you to share with your child, along with and record book. At the start of the school year, most of the children will be bringing home discussion books (books with no words). Even for children who can read, we find the skill of being able to tell a story using pictures very useful for later reading and writing success. Below are a few tips for sharing wordless picture books with your child:

There is no right way to read a wordless book. We love how each child creates their own story (or stories!) from the same pictures.

Spend time looking at the cover and talking about the book's title. Based on those two things, make a few predictions about the story.

Play 'I see...do you see?': go through the book and point out a few details, saying (for example), 'I see a bird. Do you see a bird?' If children feel more confident during the exercise, they can take over the 'I see' part of the sentence.

Take a 'picture walk' through the pages of the book. Look carefully at the expressions on characters' faces, the setting and the use of colour. Discuss what you can see, but don't worry too much about telling a story yet. Just enjoy the pictures and get a sense of what the book is about.

Go back through the book a second time and get ready for some great storytelling! Consider going first and acting as a model for your child. Have characters use different voices, add sound effects and use interesting words in your version of the book.

Encourage your child to 'read' you the book with their story. Help your child expand sentences or thoughts by encouraging the adding of information from the illustrations' details. One way to encourage more details is by asking 'W' questions: Who? Where? When? Why? What?

Finish your wordless book sharing by asking a few simple questions: What pictures helped you tell the story? What was your favourite part of your story? Have you had an experience like the one in your story?

Please write a short comment on how your child got on with their book in the red reading record book and return both books to school on Monday. The books will then be quarantined and new ones sent home the following week.

This week in Maths the children have been practising recognising and making patterns, by copying actions, using Lego and drawing patterns on whiteboards. We would like you to continue this learning at home. Some suggestions for activities are:

- Making pasta necklaces - either using coloured pasta or colouring your own with felt tip pens or paint
- Printing with fruit/veg or any other objects
- Using threading beads, Lego bricks etc.
- Looking for patterns in the environment/taking rubbings eg. brickwork, Duplo blocks etc.

We would love for you to share this work with us via Tapestry.

Next week, our topic focus will be on our family. We would love the children to be able to share a photo of their family with the class, so if you would like, please can you email a photo of your family to your class teacher.

Best Wishes
The Foundation Team