

Foundation

The children have worked extremely hard this week to remember many new routines. It has been really lovely to have them all in and to watch budding friendships develop. The outside play area is being well used, especially in the lovely sunshine, where lots of children have enjoyed being ambitious on the climbing frame. We have put some photos of the children enjoying school life on the VLE – we hope you enjoy them! We have also been busy practising the correct handwashing technique with the help of cocoa powder and oil, and retelling the story of the Gruffalo.

This week during the children's independent play, we have been practising counting. For homework we would like you to continue this learning by sitting and looking outside. Think what is going on outside your window? Pick a length of time. It can be 5 minutes or all day long, and keep an eye out for what happens outside your window. Are people walking by? Birds hanging out? How many trees can you see? Find a way to show the information you collect. Be your most creative self! Please send in your information on Monday.

We have sent the children home with a wordless picture book today which can be found in their red bookbags. This is to help develop their vocabulary and storytelling language. 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 your child feels 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 in their red reading record books. For example, you may wish to comment on language used, enthusiasm for the task, if they asked questions about the story. Please return both books on Monday in their red bookbags.

If you have not yet done so, and would like to have access to your child's Tapestry Journal (which we use to record some of your child's experiences in Foundation), please complete the agreement and sign up on My School Portal by Monday 20th September to allow us time to add you to system. You should expect to receive your log-on via email by the end of next week. Any problems or issues please email Miss Hendry (chendry@stfaiths.co.uk).

Next week, we are thinking about 'Our Family'. Please can your child bring in a photo of their family to talk about with their class. Our word of the week is '*relative*'. To really help your child develop their language skills please try and use this word at home and encourage them to use it correctly and in context.

A polite reminder that from Monday 20th September, normal school hours are in place. Drop off is 0810 -0825; collection is 1520.

Best wishes
The Foundation Team