

Foundation

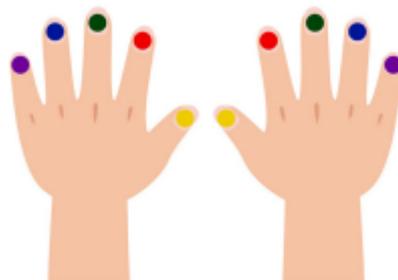
Thank you for attending the parent teacher meetings this week. We hope you found yours informative. If you have any further questions please email your child's class teacher.

This week we have been thinking about friendship and what it means to be a friend. "To be kind"; "To play together"; "To give each other hugs"; "To smile at each other" were some of the answers the children came up with. We have also thought about people in school and at home who can help if we have a problem.

The children have continued to learn new letter sounds and practise correct letter formation. You will have noticed we have finished phonics books 1A. This can now be kept at home to practise the sounds taught and doesn't need to be returned to school. The process of blending individual sounds into words has begun and the children are working hard to do this independently. Over half-term and onwards, please keep practising the sounds using the flash cards you have made. There are also lots of great games to practise on the Busy Things website, accessed via the VLE. In order to find the games you will need to select Literacy, Communication and Language, then click on phonics programme and then Phase 2, 3, and 4 Basic Letters and Sounds. We have also sent home a reading book and blending words to practise over the holiday.

We have been working hard on improving our pencil grip this half-term. One of the exercises you might like to do at home to support this is the 'Dough Disco', where you dance with your fingers in playdough. Examples of this can be seen on the VLE (<https://stfaiths.fireflycloud.net/foundation-1/foundation-literacy>).

In Maths this week, the children have been practising recognising and ordering numbers to 3. This week for homework, we would like you to help your child practise the skill of finger differentiation, which is important for developing numerical understanding, especially their quantitative skills. First, put a coloured dot on each fingernail so your child's hands match the diagram below.



Start with the maze sheet (sent home in the bookbag). Have the child match their red index finger to the red path in the maze and slowly trace the path to the end. Each path should be traced slowly and take several seconds. Next trace the green path with the matching finger. After a child uses their dominant hand to solve all of the paths in the maze ask them to use their other hand. You could then move on to the dot sheet (also in the book bags). Start with the first row of coloured dots. Have the child use their dominant hand and match their

corresponding finger to the first coloured dot. They should move across the row putting down the finger that matches the dot in colour. Make sure they hold their finger on the dot for a few seconds before they move on. After a child finishes each row using their dominant hand ask them to complete each row using their other hand. A blank page of spots is included so children can make their own patterns. As an extension you could give fingers and spots numbers. Learning can be shared via Tapestry.

After half-term, we are thinking about the festival of Diwali and our word of the week is 'celebration'.

We hope you have a lovely half-term break and look forward to seeing you back on the 2nd November.

The Foundation Team