

Reception Class Learning Blog – Summer Term – Week 7

Friday 9th June 2023

Welcome back to the final half term in Reception Class. Time has really flown by, and we have a few more short weeks left before the children continue their journey into Key Stage 1 in September 2023! We hope that you had a relaxing half term and spent some quality time together as a family. I spent the half term reflecting back on the children's learning and looking through their work books. It is astounding at the progress they have made throughout the year, and we are still only 4 and 5 years old! It just proves how capable the children are – from tiny acorns, mighty oaks do grow. We are extremely proud of all our children in Reception.

During T4W this week, we have been working on planning our own stories based on our focus text, *Whatever Next!* The children have invented some very ingenious settings and methods of transport to get to them. They have identified another character for their stories also. I'm sure you will be very pleased to find out that Mums, Dads and Grandparents feature in some of them! Finally, the children have identified a piece of action for their characters to take part in. We look forward to developing our story maps next week.

We have always been good at Maths in Reception. This week, we revisited our numbers to 20 and spent time recalling and using our positional language knowledge to put the numbers in order, as well as ordering a selection of jumbled numbers. We were so good at this, that we applied our knowledge to numbers up to 100, with some of us challenging ourselves to work beyond that. We focused in particular on our reasoning skills and language and used the position of the number on a number line and hundred square to explain how we knew what order to put the numbers in addition to which number was hidden. Towards the end of the week, we used a blank hundred square and a guide number to help us identify an unknown number. This was quite a challenge indeed.

During our work on Understanding the World, we revisited the concept of a life cycle, this time of a sunflower and compared the stages to that of a broad bean, which we had previously learnt. We identified that one plant was a vegetable and the other was a flower, but they were connected, because the sunflower is also a source of food through the seeds. We will be continuing to investigate this during our Science Enrichment Week next week.

As part of our Moon theme, we learnt about famous astronauts this week. This linked in with Baby Bear, the character in *Whatever Next!* becoming an astronaut. We learnt that anyone could become an astronaut. You need to work hard, have an interest in Science and Maths and be physically fit to be a successful astronaut. We learnt that Yuri Gagarin was the first human being in space and Valentina Tereshkova was the first woman in space. As she descended to Earth, her space craft was at threat of crashing, so she needed to fix it and did this herself to safely return home. We learnt that Neil Armstrong was the first man on the Moon. He walked on the Moon and brought back rocks for experiments. We learnt that Tim Peake, a British astronaut spent 187 days in space and regularly contacted Earth. Finally we learnt that Mae Jamison was the first woman of colour to go into space. She completed repairs on the

International Space Station. This made us think of the things we can achieve – literally, the sky is the limit!

We also sorted items into groups, identifying those that astronauts would take to space with them, and learnt that food needed to be vacuum packed, because there was no gravity in space. We imagined that the astronauts would picnic like Baby Bear did on the Moon. We learnt that gravity is an invisible force, a bit like an elastic band that pulls us down, so that our feet touch the ground and objects fall when they are dropped. We also used our phonic knowledge to write a list of items that astronauts would need to take to space with them.

Our Summer Term Show & Tell Group Rota is as follows:

Date	Group
Mo 12-06-2023	Red Kites
Mo 19-06-2023	Woodpeckers
Mo 26-06-2023	Butterflies
Mo 03-07-2023	Honey Bees
Mo 10-07-2023	Orchids
Mo 17-07-2023	Red Kites
Tu 18-07-2023	Woodpeckers

We look forward to hearing about the interesting items brought in by Red Kites on Monday afternoon during Show and Tell. These will be housed in the Show & Tell box to keep them safe throughout the day.

Aydin celebrated his 5th birthday towards the end of half term. We wish him a very happy birthday from all his friends in Reception Class.

Congratulations to our Star of the Week certificate recipients:

- ❖ Teddy, for being incredibly mature and showing confidence when upholding his responsibilities.
- ❖ Evie, for making a really positive start to her final half-term in Reception.

Our Writer of the Week certificate goes to:

- ❖ Finley, who used his phonic knowledge independently to write captions for his drawings.

Well done for all your hard work. Have a lovely weekend everyone!

With every best wish,
Mrs Dowling & Miss Ingleby