

Reception 'Donaldson' Weekly

Newsletter - 9.2.24

What have we been up to this week?

This week we have been reading non-fiction and fiction books about Lunar New Year

In Phonics this week we have had another review week consolidating all our sounds and tricky words - no new sounds or tricky words this week! This week our focus words for spelling and writing have been words containing the **ee, or, ar, oo, ow** and **oi** sounds such as **feel, deep, food, hard, sort, took, down** and **join**.

Please see the attached home learning sheet to help you practice these at home.

In Literacy we have been finishing writing our own five-sentence story and using sentence stems to write our own sentences for each part of the story to form our own book. We have had some really super writing from the children, showing how far they have come along with their writing so far this year!

In Maths we have been comparing different quantities using the language more, fewer and equal to. We have also been learning about the names of different 3D shapes and discussing their properties.

The rest of our week has all been about Lunar New Year (better known as Chinese New Year). We have learnt the story of the Great Race which formed the Chinese Zodiac and looked at which animal the year 2024 is - Year of the Dragon and which animal year we were born in! We have learnt about how Lunar New Year is celebrated and some of the traditions associated with this celebration. We decorated the classroom, making Chinese lanterns and dragons and tried some Chinese foods on our special Lunar New Year day. We also took part in lots of activities in the provision such as learning to use chopsticks!

After half-term we will be...

- Reading words with double letters and longer words
- Learning a new story - Little Red Hen
- Working on one more and one less to 10.
- Practising counting out loud.
- Learning about how we have grown since we were a baby.
- Looking at farms past and present.

Ways to help at home...

- **Read! Read! Read!** This is the biggest thing you can do to support your child's learning journey!
- Practise the phase 3 sounds we have learnt- **ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, or, ar, ur, ow, oi, ear, air** and **er**.
- Practice letter formation
- Practice number bonds of 5 and doubles to 5.
- Look for 2D and 3D shapes in the environment, describing their properties and naming them

Requests and reminders:

- There is no homework in homework books for over the holidays, but we would like you to continue reading every day and **work through the letter formation booklet** we have sent home in bookbags, which we ask you to complete at your own pace over the next couple of weeks please. **Please complete in pencil** and return to school when complete for a sticker!
- We have also sent home our Spring 2 Maths target sheets so that you can see what we will be working on next term and the targets that the children will need to achieve by Easter. Whenever you have 5 minutes, you could start having a go at home!

We hope you have a fabulous half-term and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 19th February. Don't forget to share any 'Wow!' moments from home or if you visit anywhere interesting over the holidays with us on Tapestry

Mrs Gwynn ☺