

31st October 2022

Dear Families,

Hello and welcome back to a busy **Autumn 2**. Not only do we have Diwali, Bonfire Night, Children in Need and YES, Christmas fun and games! I hope everyone has managed a safe and peaceful half term holiday break. The children certainly needed it – I climbed a mountain and found myself safely back down again, thank goodness! Boy was it windy!



Thank you to all parents for attending Parent Partnership meetings the last week of term. It was great to chat and let you know how the children are settling in. Great positive feedback for me, so, thank you all! It's lovely to hear the positive comments children are saying about school.

So, this week we start back with a bang being 31st October –Halloween. This is all the children have talked about all term. Although school does not celebrate Halloween, I will include '**Spooky**' themed activities to excite and motivate the children in their learning this week. Our learning will be based upon the story, 'The Room and the Broom'. In class already, we have Witches spooky café/kitchen, which the children helped build. There was a lot of high pitch squealing as you can imagine! Towards the end of the week we will learn who Guy Fawkes was and discuss staying safe around fireworks/sparklers or attending a Bonfire Night event. A busy week for the start of Autumn 2 term I think you will agree!

New Read Write Inc sounds to learn this week: **f and e**

RWInc sounds already learnt: **m a s d t l p n p g o c k u b**

By the end of this Autumn term our aim is for the children to fluently and quickly recognise, pronounce, and write the sounds in the set one pack. Please support your children with this at home as much as you can. The more you do at home, the more confident they will be in school.



Useful sites online to support with teaching number and phonics

- **Phonics Family** <https://phonicsfamilycom.wordpress.com/>

Super fun activities for phonics ideas. Really adaptable and fun. Go to the 'fine motor' section for LOADS of ideas on how to get those fingers working at home. There is so much on the site –I use it all the time.

- **Numberblocks on Ceebeebies (series one)**

We are methodically going through series one. This compliments all learning in the classroom so far. At the end of the year children in Reception are expected to '**Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5**' and this series supports this learning. Children are also expected to '**Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts**'. Again, the Numberblocks compliments this Early Learning Goal.

- **Oxford Owl:** <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>

Here you can find lots of free resources to support your child's learning.

[Free eBooks](#) | [Videos](#) | [Set 1 resources](#) | [Set 2 resources](#) | [Set 3 resources](#) | [Kits and flashcards to use at home](#)

Read Write Ink Workshop with Me: Tuesday 22nd Nov 2.15-3.00pm

Everyone welcome! Lots of you have asked how you can support your children at home with learning to read and write. This workshop will include:

- How to pronounce the sounds
- What sounds the children learn first including set 2 sounds
- Ideas and activities to do at home with your children
- How to support your child with writing
- Breakdown of glossary of terms e.g. Fred talk, Fred in your head, red words
- Tips for story times

RED READING BOOK BAGS

Please make sure you have ordered a red reading book bag from the office –the office have some in. It is essential that EVERY child has a red reading bag in order for the children to share their reading with you at home and in school. All homework is sent home in book bags so please make sure they are brought into school every day. We will send little phonics books home as soon as the children are confident with their first 5 letter sounds. Those children with book bags have chosen a library book to share with you at home.

As always, please get in touch if you need anything.

Thanks

Miss Viv Horne

Opal Class

Please see below for information on: The negative effects of social media on young minds

The negative effects of social media on young minds

As I've immersed myself deep into the children's world of play, either pretending to be a shop keeper, selling vegetables or being a Martian from outer space, I have noticed how much gaming language the children are using in their interactions. For example shooting someone or talking about a character who kills people from on-line games. In school we are trying to teach children a world of rich vocabulary so it can be challenging if they are exposed to too much inappropriate online shooting/killing games which can also lead to inappropriate play and language in the playground. School appreciates the positive impact electrical devices can have but we would like to stress the importance of balancing this with as much 'play' as possible – including games that do not involve screens. Research has shown that excessive screen time drastically affects a growing child's development specifically, social and emotional development.



A long term research team, The Millennium Cohort Study Group, has conducted a study consisting of nineteen thousand children born in 2000 and 2001. In following this group of children, the study group has discovered that children who are prone to watching or interacting with electrical devices for more than three hours a day are more likely to suffer from behavioural and relationship-orientated problems by the time they were seven than those who spent less time on their devices. This study demonstrates the damaging effect these devices have. Children who frequently play on tablets or phones are at a higher risk of problems such as hyperactivity, poor concentration and friendship issues, a new study suggests.

So, please be mindful when handing over electrical devices, the more time children spend playing on e-media reduces the time spent on constructive activities such as interactions with family members, reading and playing.