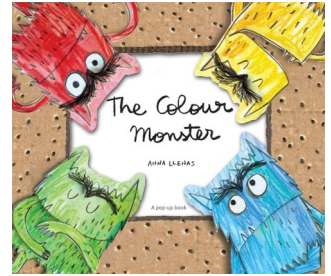




Friday 26th September

This week, we have continued to explore the children's marvellous me boxes and we have been thinking more closely about how we are all unique. A big thank you to everyone who made a marvellous me box—the children were all so animated and excited to share their special things with their friends! Next week, we will be using the book 'The Colour Monster' to explore and name different emotions. Age appropriate emotional regulation is a key element in our curriculum and we will be exploring how to understand and express our many emotions using this text.



## Phonics

This week, the children began their first phonics lessons and have learned the first 4 sounds: s, a, t and p. On the next page, you will see the visuals we use in class to help the children recognize and write these sounds. Each sound as a small phrase to help children remember correct formation. Any practice at home of these shapes will really help supercharge the children's confidence with early writing. It doesn't have to be formal with pen and paper, it can be with big chalks on the patio or even drawing it with a finger in the bubbles in a bath! Drawing letter sounds is easier if drawn large first with big body movements so don't be afraid to get creative!

## Phonics meeting

We will be holding a phonics meeting for parents and carers on **Tuesday 7th October** to explain some of the key areas of support you can give to your child as you are helping them practice their reading at home. The meeting will be held at **2:50**. If you would like to attend, **please wait at the main school reception area at 2:45**. The meeting will finish just in time for normal pickup at the end of the school day.

Please take a look at this short video which explains the 'pure sounds' we need to teach children to say when they see their phonics sounds. Click on the link below and then select the video titled: *Phase 2 sounds taught in Reception Autumn 1*

[For parents | Letters and Sounds](#)

## Mathematics

In Maths we have begun exploring the first numbers. Our approach is to explore a new number across a couple of sessions so the children have plenty of experience recognizing, building and counting each number as they learn it. A really important element of early counting is **cardinality - the concept that the last number you say when you count is the answer**. In school, we really try to highlight cardinality when we count and we would like you to reinforce this key concept with any counting at home. For example: if you are counting 3 apples, you would say: 1, 2, 3! 3 apples! **Repeating the final number helps to cement the concept of cardinality**. It may seem a small thing, but it really makes a difference!

## P.E.

After the successful introduction this week of phonics, number and mark making lessons, we are ready to begin our first sessions away from the classroom. Formal P.E. lessons will begin next week for both classes. Due to the nature of our building and having to share hall space with Parkside classes, different classes have P.E. on different days:

**Goslings will have P.E. on Tuesdays**

**Cygnets will have P.E. on Fridays**

Please send your child to school dressed in their P.E. kit (**P.E. kit is black shorts/joggers, black sweatshirt/zip up hoodie, yellow t-shirt and trainers**). Please avoid laced shoes if your child can not fasten them themselves. Please avoid pumps as children will be in these shoes all day and this will include time outside playing and learning. The children do not need to bring their school uniform as they will not be changing.

**Please name absolutely everything.**

If your child has long hair, please tie up their hair so it is out of their face. If your child has earrings, please either take out earrings on P.E. days or put tape over earrings.



S

Down the snake  
from head to  
tail



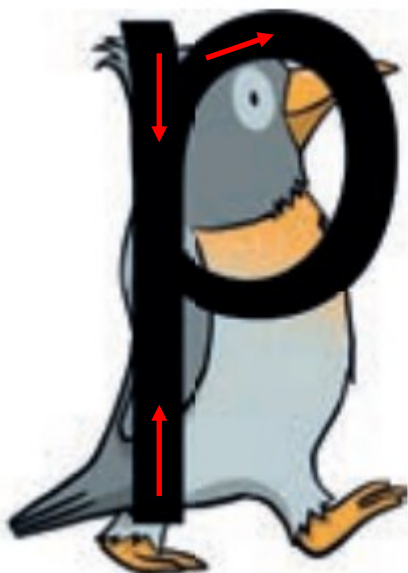
a

Around the  
astronaut's  
helmet and  
down into  
space.



t

Down the tiger  
and across his  
neck



p

Down the  
penguin's back,  
up and around  
its head