



Friday 17th April

What a lovely first week back we've had! The children have returned from the Easter break ready and raring to learn and we've loved exploring dinosaurs in class. We will be continuing our dinosaurs topic for a 2nd week.

The Easter break is one of the longest mid-year holidays during the school-year and without a big event like Christmas to focus time on to, many children can find returning after the 2-week holiday a little challenging and is something we often see around this time of year. Do continue to encourage your children to come in quickly during morning drop-off - they quickly settle into their routines with their friends around them and fingers crossed they will return to more settled drop-offs before too long.

Phonics

This week we have been exploring longer words which end in -ing. The children have been taught that, while these are 2 separate sounds, i and ng often can be found together and can easily be blended together.

Reading

We are really happy with the progress our children are making with their reading and more and more of our children are moving over to the colour banded books. The summer term is an important time to consolidate and sharpen lots of reading skills so please continue to read at home as much as you can!

Maths—We have been exploring sharing numbers equally and have learned that not all numbers can be shared fairly between 2 people. Next week we will be focusing on length and height in our maths lessons.

Writing - As we enter into our final full-term of Reception, it is always useful to have an eye on next year and the academic expectations for our young children as they enter more formal schooling. We are looking for our children to leave the EYFS phase able to write a short caption with phonetically plausible choices to spell words, clear spaces between them and a full stop at the end. These phrases can be dictated by someone else or created by the child themselves if they are confident to do so. This is the threshold we will judge the children by to gauge their readiness for writing in Year 1. We have found, over the years, that now is a great time to really encourage your child to engage with as much writing at home as you can. This doesn't need to always be full sentences though: it could be helping you to write a list of things to buy or labelling something around the house. If you are able to support some extra writing practise at home, do try to focus on correct letter formation and the use of finger spaces between words. Just like with reading, any extra experience children can have writing away from school will really help cement their readiness for next year!

Gymnastics request!

The children really enjoyed their first gymnastics sessions and are really looking forward to next week. For gymnastics, the expectation is for children to be barefoot while using the equipment and we noticed, across both classes, that many children struggled to independently put their socks and shoes back on after the session. If you could find some time over the weekend to practise putting socks and shoes on with your child, it would enable us to spend more of our session exploring the gymnastics equipment. It would also really help the children if they are given Velcro or slip-on shoes instead of laced shoes. Thank you!