Cygnets & Goslings Newsletter

This Week in Reception...

Friday 9th October

A big thank you to everyone who was able to make it to our parent's phonics meeting earlier this week. All of the links and key info shared during the meeting will be available in this newsletter.

Your child will have received their first blending pack - this is a precursor to reading books and will help your child develop their segmenting and blending skills. Please practise the words every day at home to build up confidence - if your child is struggling to put the sounds together to make the whole word, you can blend the sounds for them first so they can attempt to hear the word.

Coming up next week...

We will be continuing with our Colour monster theme into next week and using it to begin our first week of writing sessions. We call our writing in Reception 'Drawing Club', during which all children respond to a shared text by creating their own character / setting / adventure to fit alongside it with basic single-letter mark making to begin with before building onto words and small phrases.

Forest School reminders

Both classes have now completed their first session at forest school and have adapted well to the change in our routine and timetable. Here are some helpful reminders for how you can help us to make Forest School days run smoothly:

- Send children to school on Forest School days in warm layers, temperatures are really beginning to drop so warm underlayers are going to be essential for a long forest session!
- Don't send children to school wearing waterproofs (we may deceide to run our sessions in the morning or afternoon depending on weather conditions so it's important children aren't in waterproofs when they don't need to be!
- Please send waterproofs into school on Forest days in a named bag (we don't have storage space in class so we pool all of the individual bags into large coloured sacks that match children's drawers - it really helps if a bag is easily identifiable for children and grown ups!
- Please also label any home jumpers children may wear to school on Forest days, this will make it much easier to ensure everything goes home with the children at the end of the day!
- Please avoid sending children to school in laced shoes unless they can tie and untie them themselves.

Water bottles

We do please encourage you to only fill children's water bottles with water for school. We often have spills and dropped bottles which are more problematic when sticky squash is involved...we've even had a Grand Prix-style champagne explosion in class this week when fizzy water has been shaken up on the walk to school and exploded over an art activity during snack time that needed to be scrapped and reprinted - thank you for your support.

Book bag charms

Many of you who came to the September class visits will recall children's drawers are where bookbags are kept. Sometimes the charms children have on their bags are so big that tha bag can no longer fit inside the drawer (many are like a cuddly toy). We will let you know if your child's charms are unsuitable for the classroom and appreciate your help in advance with removing / replacing these.

Mr Wilbrooke's top winter play tip.

It may feel a little early, but you may be thinking about buying winter acessories for your children to wear here at school. My top recommendation for keeping fingers warm are waterproof mittens. These are so much easier for children (and supporting adults) to get on and off and woolen gloves become wet and cold incredibly quickly at school as the winter weather sets in and end up not being used. Any hats, scarves and gloves that make their way to school over the coming months - please label as best you can - thank you!

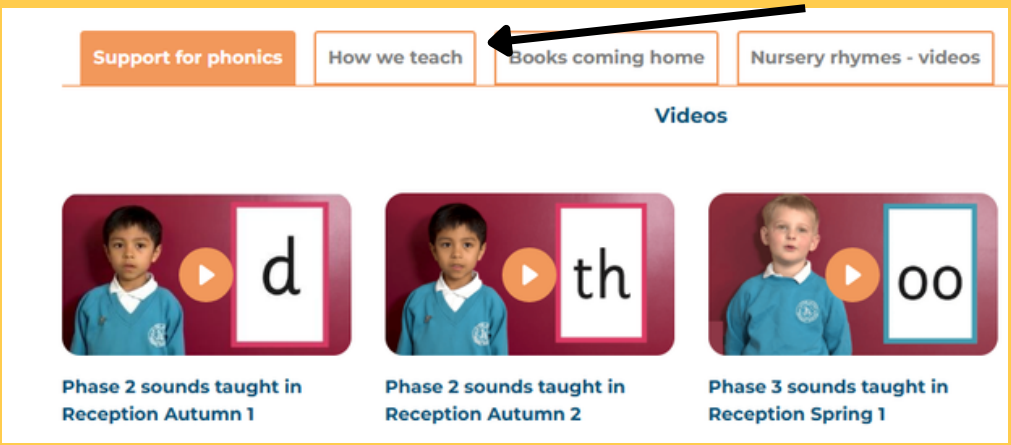
i		Pull your lips back and make the i sound at the back of your mouth: i i i	Down bump, flick, put a dot on.
n		Open your lips a bit, put your tongue behind your teeth and make the nnnnn sound: nnnnn	Down bump, back up, push over, down bump, flick.
m		Put your lips together and make the mmmmm sound: mmmmm	Down bump, back up, push over, down bump, back up, push over, down bump, flick.
d		Put your tongue to the top of your mouth and make a quick d sound: d d d d	Pull around, push along the ground, up down bump, flick.

Phonics Meeting Links

https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/

Follow this link to see lots of really useful information for supporting your child's early reading at home:

We recommend watching the videos shown below via the link as well as the video 'how we teach blending' which can be found in the 'How we teach' section



As mentioned at the meeting, we will be letting you know soon when we will hold a phonics stay and play session before Christmas, giving you the chance to see a phonics lesson delivered in your child's classroom and some time to explore some simple phonics activities you may wish to recreate at home to support early reading.