

# Peek at the Week



## Star Writes! - What is your superpower?

This week the children have been using their phonics to complete their Star Writes. Star Writes are done every half term, by all children across the school, from Nursery to Year 6. They are independent pieces of work which show the amazing progress our children make in writing and composition from the beginning to the end of their Dorchester journey. You will all have the chance to see your child's Star Write book at Parents' Evening.

We have been consolidating our knowledge of odd and even numbers by group object into twos and noticing when something does not have a partner - so that must be an odd number. Can your child remember how we check if there is an odd or even number of item?



# Mystery Reader!

## Thank you to all our volunteers!

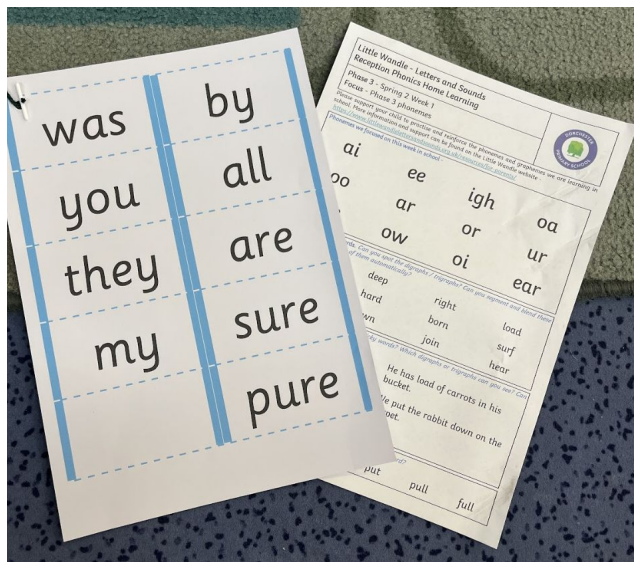
Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to be a mystery reader. We still need more volunteers. We try to have one Mystery Reader a week if possible. It doesn't have to be a parent. It could be a grandparent, aunt, uncle or even an older sibling.



Email your class teacher for more information. **Remember – DON'T TELL YOUR CHILD! This is to be a surprise for them too!**

## Dip and Do - Tricky Words

This week we are sending home the next set of tricky words, along with the usual phonics review sheets. Please practise the tricky words by either cutting them up or finding a way to engage with your child, maybe turning the sheet into a game.



## Forest School

The children will have Forest School sessions on a Thursday morning with Riad. The classes will go every other week. We are looking for parents who would be available to support us with these sessions either weekly or on a rota basis. If you think you can help please contact your class teacher (see email addresses below).

### Forest School timetable:

#### **February**

26th - Bronze

#### **March**

5th - Silver

12th - Bronze

19th - Silver

26th - Bronze

Thank you to all the parents who have helped at Forest School. The children are loving having parents come to help. We can always take more!

## Important Dates

**Monday 23 February - First Day Spring 2**

**Friday 27 February - Non-uniform day (Mother's Day donations)**

**Thursday 5th March - World Book Day. More Details to Follow**

**Tuesday 10th & Friday 13th March - Mother's Day Shop**

**Wednesday 18th March - Early Birds Maths - 08:30-09:15**

## Please remember to store all books in the book bag

We are, of course, very keen for everyone to read with their child daily and to write in the reading record. Please remember to return the books to the bag every day.

Sometimes the timetable changes and we need to change the days that we read with the children, change their books or take in the reading diary.

The school asks the parent of children throughout the school, to ensure that their books are in their bags every day, so it's a good habit to get into in Reception. Thank you for your help with this.





**World Book Day - 5th March**  
**Begin Again by Oliver Jeffers**  
**More details to follow**

# Reception Parent/Carer Events 2025-26



## September

Welcome to Reception  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>  
8:30-9:15am  
Come along to  
Bronze Class)

## October

Early Birds: Fine Motor  
Activities  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>  
8:30-9:15am  
Bronze and Silver  
Classrooms.

## November

Phonics Workshop  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>  
8:30-9:15am  
Come to class

## December

EYFS Nativity  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>  
9:15-10:30am  
Welcome to  
2:45-3:15pm  
Main Hall

## January

Maths Workshop  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
January  
8:30-9:15am  
Come to Class

## February

Live Maths Meeting  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>  
2:45-3:15pm  
Bronze and Silver  
Classrooms.

## March

Early Birds: Maths  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>  
8:30-9:15am  
Bronze and Silver  
Classrooms

## April

Live Phonics  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
8:45-9:30am  
Bronze and Silver  
Classrooms

## May

Family Reading  
Celebration  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup>  
2:45-3:15pm  
Bronze and Silver  
Classrooms

## June

Bronze Class  
Assembly  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup>  
9:00-9:30am  
Main Hall

## July

Silver Class Assembly  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
9:00-9:30am  
Main Hall

Early Bird: Summer Holiday  
Activities  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup>  
8:30-9:15am

## August

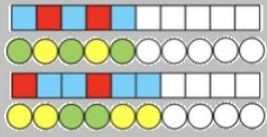

SUMMER  
HOLIDAYS

Thank you to everyone who came to the live Maths Meeting. We hope it gave you a flavour of how we consolidate maths teaching throughout the year.

Maths Meeting Chant!

1 2 3 4 5  
Maths, Maths Meeting  
6 7 8 9 10

I love Maths! Yes I do!  
I love Maths! How about You?  
We love Maths! Yes we do!  
We love maths! More than you!



## School Dinner Menu

The school dinner menu can be found on the school website at:

<https://www.dorchesterprimary.com/page/?title=School+Lunch&pid=114>

## Contact emails

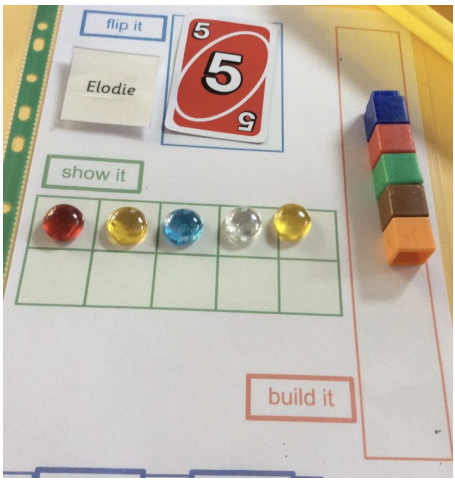
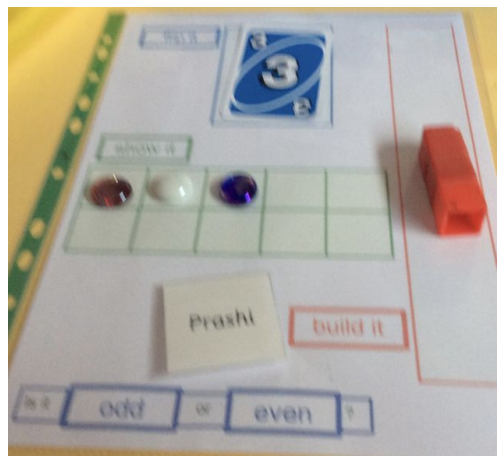
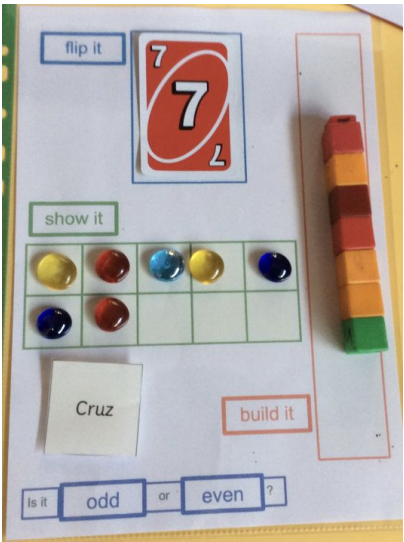
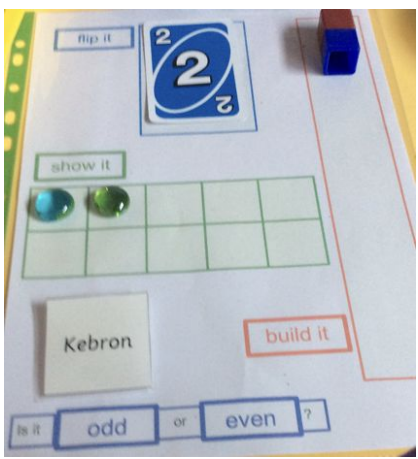
If you would like to contact any of us by email. We will reply as soon as possible within school working hours.

Mrs Annabel Glover-EYFS lead/Nursery [aglover13@suttonmail.org](mailto:aglover13@suttonmail.org)

Miss Munaza Ahmad - Silver Class [mahmad68@suttonmail.org](mailto:mahmad68@suttonmail.org)

Mrs Tammy Rich- Bronze Class [trich18@suttonmail.org](mailto:trich18@suttonmail.org)

Our Maths challenge table has been about consolidating building numbers on a ten frame by either, filling the first 5 and then the next 5, or by filling in twos. They carry out the challenge and take a photo, independently, using an iPad. This is then discussed later and the child can give their reasoning.





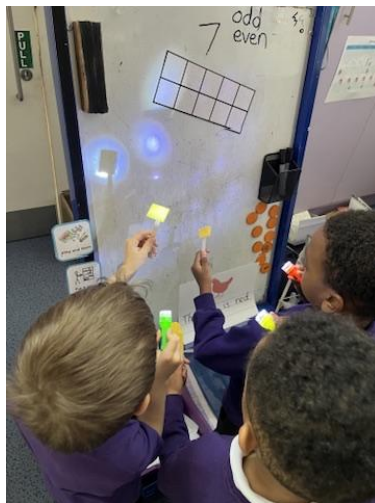
Singing Nursery Rhymes together when no one is watching.

**What Nursery Rhymes do you like to sing with your friends?**



Miss Sylvester showed the children how to fold paper to make a spring that could then be used for many things. Here it was used as a stem and then the project was independently extended to include and garden for the flower to grow in.

**What would you do with your paper spring?**



The children experimented with shadows using torches and their own puppets.

**How are shadows made?**



The teachers and LSAs hear reading groups three times a week. We focus on decoding the words, prosody (reading with expression) and comprehension. All this happens before the books come home, where the reading they do with you helps them to build their confidence and work towards becoming automatic readers.



A spontaneous exercise session.

**Why is it important to exercise?**

Making potions using pipettes. Pipettes are a good tool for strengthening our small hands. And potions are a good vehicle for lots of things. Some of these potions were going to stop the dragon from breathing fire.

**What would you use your potion for?**





I can make a triangle with my fingers.

**Can you make a shape with your fingers? Can you tell someone about that shape?**



Balancing using our friends for help.

**What do your friends help you do?**



Some of the children got creative with some hearts this week. It is nearly Valentine's Day after all.

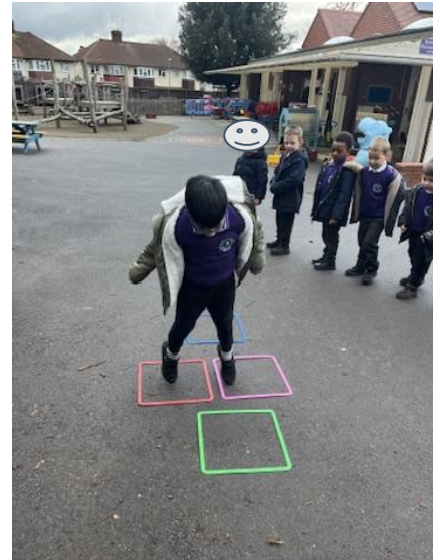
**Who would you make a Valentine's Day heart for?**





Anyone for a game of home-made Jenga?

How do you play Jenga?



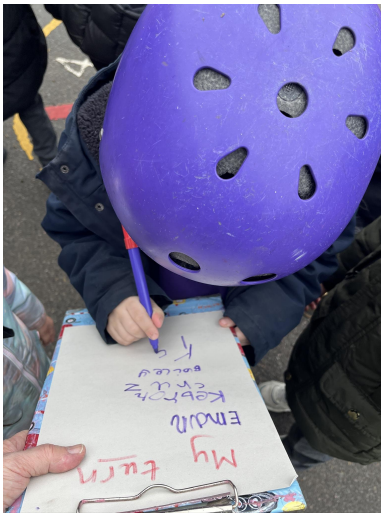
After finding some plastic squares in the garden, some of the children looked at different ways they could be laid out and then found creative ways to jump along them.

They also showed how well they can wait for their turn. Turn-taking is an important part of the Early Year Curriculum. It helps with sharing, emotional regulation and building friendships.



Another important skill is helping each other. Here it was helping a friend to do up his zip.

Who have you helped?



Reception were, kindly, gifted a bicycle that someone had outgrown. It proved to be so popular that the children had to sign up to have a timed ride! The children that could already ride with two wheels were showcasing their skills and many others were having a go around the outside area.

If you know anyone who has a bicycle that they no longer need and would be suitable for Reception, please mention us.



Another valuable lesson in turn-taking. A group of children with varying experiences of having played dominoes before, playing together.

**What is your favourite game to play with your family? Could we play it at school? Tell us about it.**