

This week's learning

Our Family Earlybirds sessions were the highlight of this week. We were able to share lots of learning ideas that the children can do at home to help them to prepare for Reception. The children really enjoyed sharing their learning with their special adults and they were able to show them everything that they have learnt this year. We had activities to develop fine motor skills, Phonics games, name writing activities, maths activities and craft ideas to support the children to remember the 3 a day stories that they are able to recite with confidence. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Nursery families for their support this year. To the families that are leaving us we wish you and your children every success in their new schools. To the children that are joining our Reception Classes at Dorchester Primary School we cannot wait to see when you visit to show us all of your wonderful new learning. To the families that are staying at nursery we cannot wait to share another year of learning with you. We are really looking forward to our End of year celebration on Monday and hope to see as many of you as possible on this day.

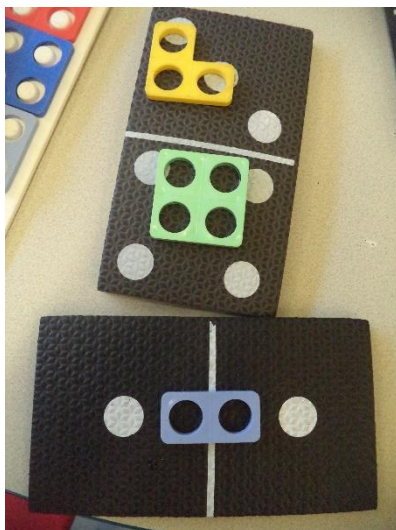
If you have any questions or any WOW moments to share, please email us using the addresses below:

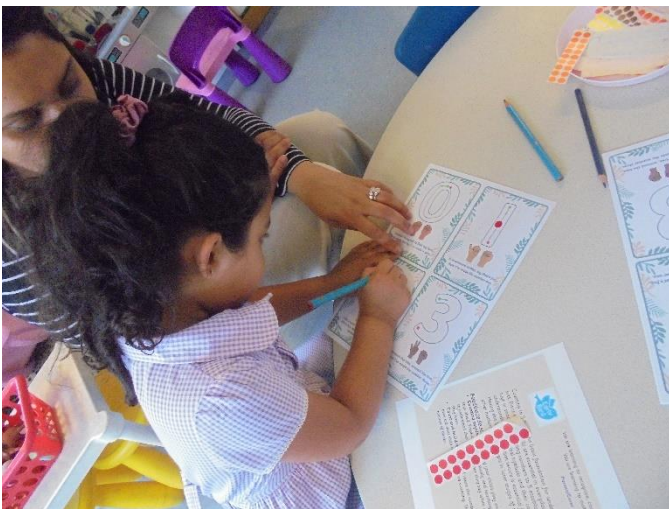
aglover13@suttonmail.org -Annabel Glover-Nursery Class Teacher, EYFS lead and Phonics Lead

mahmad68@suttonmail.org – Munaza Ahmad- Nursery Class Teacher

What have we been learning in Nursery?

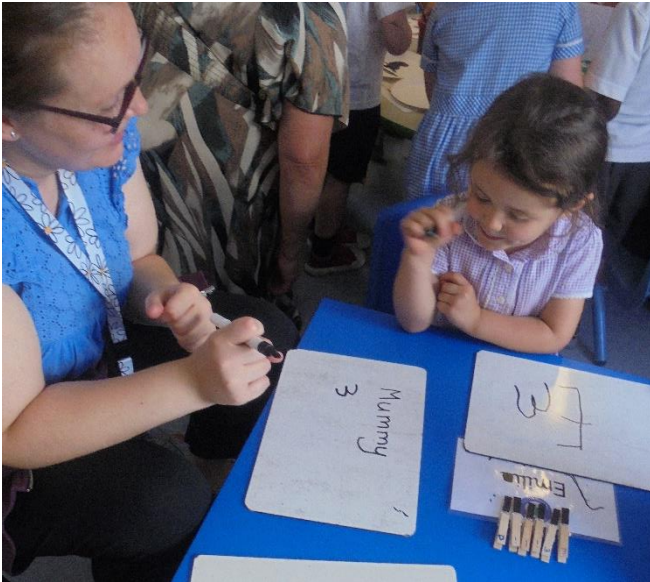
Please show your child these pictures and encourage them to talk about them.







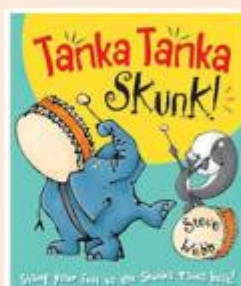






We are learning to use art resources to make a recognisable picture.

We are learning to hear syllables in words.



What animal are you in our Tanka, Tanka skunk play?

What could we use to make a mask for that animal? What colours will we need?

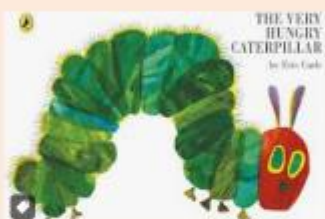
How are you going to make your mask?

How do we tap the name of your animal when playing the drums?

How many syllables in that animal? What is your favourite animal from the story?

How do we tap the name of that animal when playing the drums?

We are learning to use art resources to make a recognisable picture.
We are learning to retell a story?



- What colours are you going to use to make your caterpillar?
- How will you stick the pieces of your mask together?
- Can you make the food for the hungry caterpillar? What resources will you use?
- Can you retell The Hungry Caterpillar story?
- What phrase is said a lot in this story?



We are learning to use art resources to make a recognisable picture.
We are learning to retell a familiar story.

Parent/Carer guide

Learning to retell a story is an important skill for building reading comprehension and writing skills in young children. Children need to develop story telling skills in a spoken format before they can apply them to a written format.
Clapping syllables helps children to break down longer words when listening to the sounds within them.



Activities to do at home:

- **Retelling stories using props-** gather household items that relate to the story and use them as props.
- **Finger puppets-** draw the key characters in the story on small pieces of paper to act out the story.
- **Playdough characters-** Make homemade playdough and with your child make the characters from the story. Then use the characters to retell the story.

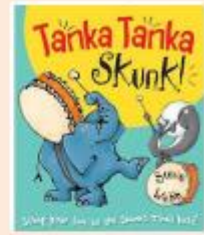


We are learning to use art resources to make a recognisable picture.
We are learning to hear syllables in words.

Parent/Carer guide

3-a-day stories:

- Toddle Waddle by Julia Donaldson
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
- Rosie's Walk by Pat Hutchins
- Faster, Faster, Nice and Slow! by Nick Sharrett
- The Animal Bop by Jan Omerod
- Walking through the Jungle by Julie Lacombe
- One Mole digging a Hole by Julia Donaldson/Nick Sharrett
- We all went on Safari by Laurie Krebs
- The Train Ride by June Crebbin
- Handa's Hen by Eileen Browne
- Peace at Last by Jill Murphy
- Wow said the Owl by Tim Hopgood
- Mr Magnolia by Quentin Blake
- Tanka Tanka Skunk by Steve Webb
- Owl Babies by Martin Waddell
- Duck in the Truck by Jez Alborough
- The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson
- The Gigantic Turnip by Aleksei Tolstoy



We are learning to hear the first sound in a word



S	t	p	n	m	d	g	c	r
s	tt	pp	nn	mm	dd	gg	ck	rr
ss							cc	

What phoneme sound does your name start with?

What can you see?

What phoneme sound can you hear at the beginning of..... (cat, dog etc.) ?

What else begins with that phoneme sound?

Can you find all of the objects beginning with that phoneme sound?



We are learning to hear the first sound in a word

Parent/Carer guide

Hearing the initial sound in words is crucial for early literacy development and language acquisition in young children. This helps children to understand that words are made up of individual sounds known as 'phonemes' and that changing these sounds can create different words. Children who can identify and manipulate sounds in words are better equipped to decode words when learning to read.



Activities to do at home:

- **I Spy**- Play 'I Spy' focusing on initial sounds rather than colours. For example, I spy something beginning with the sound /b/ (for ball).
- **Sound Scavenger Hunt**- create a list of initial sounds e.g. /s/ /a/ /t/ /p/ and challenge your child to find objects around the house that start with each sound.
- **Mystery sound bag**- Hide objects in a bag and ask your child to feel the objects and guess what they are based on the initial sound. For example, it begins with /s/



We are learning to strengthen our finger muscles.



How do you exercise your fingers?
 Why should we exercise our fingers?
 What did you find easy?
 What did you find difficult?



We are learning to strengthen our finger muscles

Parent/Carer guide

Learning to cut with scissors helps to build hand strength, develop hand-eye coordination, improve bilateral coordination, and improve attention to tasks. Additionally, while using scissors the child is improving visual motor and visual perceptual skills.

Mark making is important as it serves as the foundation for children's writing and literacy skills. Children develop their fine motor skills through holding and manipulating writing tools. It also encourages creativity and expression.



Activities to do at home:

- **Finger painting**- using fingers to paint on paper to allow the children to explore different textures and colours.
- **Flour or salt trays**- fill a shallow tray with salt or flour and let children use their fingers or small tools to draw shapes and patterns.
- **Water painting**- bowl of water and paintbrush for children to paint on concrete or a wooden fence. Water will leave temporary marks that will dry and disappear.

Practise holding and using scissors:

- Give your child strips of paper and encourage them to make small snips along the edges
- Cutting playdough snakes in pieces.
- Cutting around simple shapes like squares and circles.

We are learning to recognise our names.

We are learning to write our names.





We are learning to recognise our names.
We are learning to write our names.

Parent/Carer guide

It is an age-related expectation that children in nursery can recognise and write their name. Putting their name in order helps children to recognise each of the letters then they are ready to focus on correct letter formation. Mark making is important as it serves as the foundation for children's writing and literacy skills. Children develop their fine motor skills through holding and manipulating writing tools. It also encourages creativity and expression.



Activities to do at home:

- Finger painting- using fingers to paint the letters on paper to allow the children to explore different textures and colours.
- Flour or salt trays- fill a shallow tray with salt or flour and let children use their fingers or small tools to draw the letters in their name.
- Water painting- bowl of water and paintbrush for children to paint the letters on concrete or a wooden fence. Water will leave temporary marks that will dry and disappear.
- Name puzzle- write their name on a piece of paper and cut out each letter separately. Mix up the letters and have your children put them back in the correct order.
- Playdough names- roll out playdough and shape it into the letters of their name.



We are learning to sort objects to a criteria.
We are learning to say which group has more/fewer objects.



Can you sort the objects into sets?
What is the same/different about the objects in your set?
Which group has more/fewer objects in?

We are learning to recognise, count and order numbers to 5.

We are learning to make numbers up to 5.



What numbers can you see?

Can you make this number? Can you find a different way to make this number?

Can you count out the correct number of objects to match to this number?

How many objects do you have?

Can you put the numbers in order? How do you know which order they should go in?



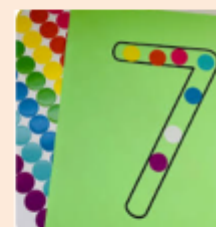
We are learning to recognise, count and order numbers to 5.
We are learning to make numbers up to 5.

Parent/Carer guide

Counting to 5 forms the basic foundation for understanding numbers and sets. Basic counting skills are essential in everyday activities such as counting toys or snacks. Recognising numbers to 5 establishes a foundational understanding of numerical symbols and their corresponding quantities. Having this basic foundation secure is essential for the children to then grasp other mathematical concepts in later stages of development.

Activities to do at home:

- **Counting toys/objects-** during your child's play encourage them to count their toys aloud. Emphasise counting slowly and touching all the objects. Help children to understand that the last number they say when counting is the amount that they have.
- **Count and build-roll** a dice and count the number of dots together- you can even ask your child to subitise before counting. Then build a tower with that number of blocks.



We are learning to recognise environmental sounds.



Can you make some large listening ears?
How will you make them ear shaped? How will you cut them out?
How will you attach them to your head?
What sounds can you hear?



We are learning to recognise environmental sounds.

Parent/Carer guide

Hearing environmental sounds and recreating them is an important first step for children as they develop their phonics skills. These are the skills that they will use to read and write. It is also important that children learn to recognise rhyming words.

Activities to do at home:

Go on listening walk: What sounds can you hear at home/in the park etc. Can you recreate those sounds? What is making the sound?

Learn Nursery rhymes: can you recite the rhymes? Can you identify the words that rhyme?

Farm Game: Can you use toys or pictures of animals to set up a farm? Can you make the sound that each animal makes? Can you match the animals to their sounds?

Silly Soup: Can you make a silly soup and put rhyming objects in?

Initial Sound I Spy (s)

Find and circle all of the things that begin with s.



Initial Sound I Spy (a)

Find and circle all of the things that begin with **a**.

a




























Initial Sound I Spy (t)

Find and circle all of the things that begin with **t**.

















Grapheme mat

Phases 2 and 3

 s ss	 t tt	 p pp	 n nn	 m mm	 d dd	 g gg	 c k ck cc	 r rr
 h	 b bb	 f ff	 l ll	 j jj	 v vv	 w	 x	 y
 z zz s	 qu	 ch	 sh	 th	 ng	 nk		

 a	 e	 i	 o	 u
--	--	--	--	--

 ai	 ee	 igh	 oa	 oo	 oo	 ar
 or	 ur	 er	 ow	 oi	 ear	 air



End of Year Celebration

Our Nursery '**End of Year Celebration**' will be on Monday 22nd July. We are hoping to have a family picnic from **12:15pm to 1:15pm**. If you would like to join us you will need to provide food for your child and yourself. Children who usually stay for lunch will be able to attend the picnic even if a family member is unable to attend. We will have our usual lunchtime supervision staff for this. Our **Celebration assembly will be from 1:30pm** (family members may take their seats from **1:15pm**). The celebration assembly is open to all of our Nursery families but please note, if your child is staying in Nursery next year they will not be part of this assembly, but of course they are welcome to sit and watch. Morning nursery session will run as usual on this day and end at 11:30am but we hope most of you will be able to bring your children back to join the celebrations. If your child attends morning sessions only, they will not be included in our ratios for the afternoon celebrations so a familiar adult will need to remain with them. **Please let a member of staff know as soon as possible whether you and your child will be attending.**



Important Notice

During our end of year celebration, you will not be able to take any photographs or videos. This is to safeguard children within our year group who cannot have their photographs shared. We will however, have a photograph backdrop available throughout the picnic time for you to use. You may take photographs of your child with their friends if their parents/carers are there to consent to this. If you are not attending the event but would like to consent to your child's photograph being taking by other parents I will need to be informed of this in writing via an email.

Important Dates

Monday 22nd July- Last day of Nursery and Nursery End of Year Celebration 1:30pm More details to follow nearer the time, parents/carers will be invited to join us. We are hoping to have a community picnic before the event but this will depend on the weather.

Friday 19th July 2024

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