

Weekly Newsletter

W.B. 13.4.26

This week:

Please can we ask that any reading books taken home are returned to your child's classroom book boxes after they've been used.

This week in **English** the children have started their next story writing focus. We began by reading a WAGOLL (what a good one looks like) story and discussing the characters and setting. We learned more about the characters using 'hot seating'. This is where someone pretended to be one of the characters from the story and we asked them questions to find out more. This prepared us for our next lesson which was acting out the story as it allowed us to think about how the different characters may be feeling and express their speech/actions appropriately. Later in the week, we moved onto analysing our story where we identified story language, past tense words, coordinating conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions, expanded noun phrases, ambitious words, punctuation (including capital letters, full stops, question marks, exclamation marks, commas and apostrophes) and purpose and audience.

Can your child name some 'past tense' words (e.g. were, snapped, continued)?

Can your child tell you some different pieces of story language (e.g. Once upon a time/ In a land far away...)?

As part of **Maths** this week the children have continued their new unit of work around multiplication and division. The children have this week looked at the strategy repeated addition to help them solve multiplication problems. They have done this for 2's, 3's, 5's and 10's. Eg: 3×2 is the same as $2 + 2 + 2$.

The children found this really useful and have really enjoyed using this to help them in their maths lessons.




Can your child count in multiples of 2's, 3's, 5's and 10's?

Can they use repeated addition to solve multiplication?

Can your child find a missing number in the middle of a calculation?

Can they use a number line to see if an equation is balanced?

As part of **topic** lessons, the children have continued their science learning around weather. The children have been learning all about the Earth and how it rotates around the sun to give us the seasons. The children loved learning about this and enjoyed the video clips that supported their learning on this. We also looked at different types of extreme weather such as a tornado, flash flood and drought.

Weather	Season	Description	Affects
Snow	Winter	Around December time, the sunlight hits most of the Southern Hemisphere so we do not get much direct sunlight. This means its very cold. This is called	
Sun	Summer	Around June time, the sunlight hits most of the Northern Hemisphere so we get lots of direct sunlight. This means very hot. This is called	
Rain	Spring	Around March time, the sunlight hits most of the Southern Hemisphere BUT we get more sunlight. This means its warming up. This is called	
Wind	Autumn	Around September time, the sunlight hits less of the Northern Hemisphere so we do not get much direct sunlight. This means it starts to cool down again. This is called	

Can your child explain why we get seasons?
Can your child describe what the weather is (usually) like in each of the four seasons?

Attendance for KS1:

Class 7 - 97.7%
Class 8 - 98%
Class 9 - 100%

Reminders:

PE

Class 7 PE day is Thursday.
Class 8 PE day is **Thursday & Friday**.
Class 9 PE day is Thursday.

Children must have the following in their PE bag: t-shirt, shorts, tracksuit bottoms, jacket, pumps or trainers and earrings removed or taped on their PE day (this cannot be done by a member of staff).

Their kit must stay in school for the week in the event that the PE day needs to change and / or a child has an accident so that we can change them into their own clothing so that they feel comfortable.

Homework

Homework will mainly be handed out on a Tuesday. On the odd occasion it may be on a different day due to timetable changes. Please return homework on a Monday. Handing it on a Monday gives you the opportunity before the weekend to ask the teacher any questions so that you are clear of how to support your child if unsure. There is a tray in each class where the homework needs to be returned. Please ask the teacher where this tray is if unsure.

Spellings

Spellings are handed out in phonics lessons every Thursday and your child will be tested on these spellings the following Thursday. Children will receive a list of spellings to practise each week. In addition to the spellings, children will be tested on a sentence containing the words. However, the sentence will not be sent home. This is to see if they can apply the spelling currently within their writing. Can you get your child to practise applying the words by creating their very own sentences?

Reading Diaries

Children in KS1 have all been provided with a Home Reading Diary. Please fill this in daily based on your child reading a couple of pages of a book or a whole book. Please return the Reading Diary to school each day and leave it in the designated classroom tray. There are books situated in the classroom for your child to take home when they have finished the book they are reading. Reading is extremely important to your child's development so we really encourage your child to read a book or pages of a book daily. If you are unsure of your child's reading book colour then please ask your teacher.

Online Safety

National Online Safety - Suggest Apps and Games for Early Years
National Online Safety believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold informed and age-appropriate conversations about online safety with their child, should they feel it is needed. This week's focus is "Suggested Apps and Games for Early Years".



Suggested Apps and Games For EARLY YEARS




Learning

FISH SCHOOL HD



This app teaches young children (age 2-5) about important things like letters, shapes, numbers and more, all set in a colourful underwater setting with adorable sea creatures. The basic idea has fish and sea creatures forming the shapes of letters, numbers etc that your little one can identify. Developers Duck Duck Moose have a lineage of creating family friendly apps and games with 21 top-selling apps since 2008. Fish School HD has over 50,000 downloads and offers a rounded package of activities, but many other apps by this developer are highly rated and offer a few twists on the formula. As always it's worth checking a few out to see which best suits your child's interests. Fish School HD is available for free on iOS and Android.

GREEN EGGS AND HAM - DR. SEUSS



The classic Dr. Seuss book has been reworked into an interactive adventure for modern day devices, with an emphasis on encouraging literacy learning in younger children. Within the app, there's a few different options on how to enjoy the story; you can read it aloud together, have the app read the book and follow along, or just play the story through automatically. You can even tap on words to hear them individually to practice vocabulary. While the app will set you back £3.79 on Android (£3.99 on iOS) it has an excellent rating and over 10,000 downloads, with many noting how much their young children have enjoyed the story. It speaks volumes about the quality of the work, too, that a book from 1960 can still be read and loved by children some two generations after its initial release.

TOCA LAB: ELEMENTS




Toca Lab is the app of choice in encouraging little scientists to get to grips with elements, our world and how physics and chemistry work. This one might be a little advanced for younger kids and, though it has a PEGI 3 rating, it does recommend ages 6-8 in the description. All 118 elements are present in Toca Labs and kids are encouraged to find and test them all. Experimenting with things like Gold, Neon, Hydrogen and more, it gives a better grasp of how everything in our universe is formed. Bear in mind though that it's not meant to be a scientifically accurate account of how elements react, but to build curiosity in young minds. The app is available on iOS and Android for £3.99.

BAREFOOT WORLD ATLAS



What's the next best thing to travelling the world? Well, for kids with access to an iPad or Apple phone, Barefoot World Atlas could be a close second. In this app available only on iOS for £4.99, kids and adults can explore the globe from the comfort of their own homes and learn all about our planet. The app, which is rated 4+, only appears on Apple devices but the sheer amount of information contained in here will keep curious kids busy for hours on end.

SKETCHBOOK - DRAW AND PAINT (AUTODESK SKETCHBOOK ON IOS)




Encouraging artistic ability at an early age can often be invaluable in letting kid's imaginations loose and there are many apps that allow them to unlock that passion. SketchBook comes highly recommended with over 300,000 reviews. Essentially, the app comprises a blank canvas and a host of "fast and powerful creative sketching tools" like pens, pencils and paint brushes to let those creative juices flow. SketchBook is rated PEGI 3 so even younger children should be able to get to grips with it. However, it could prove a little too complex for some and the large collection of tools and crisp graphics would suit a larger screen like an iPad, over a mobile phone. Despite this, the ability to simply mess around and doodle, coupled with more advanced accessibility later down the line, should make it a must own for all age ranges. The app is free to download on both Android and iOS.



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#WakeUpWednesday

Just for Fun

LITTLE FRIENDS: CATS & DOGS



If you're looking to introduce pets into the family home but aren't sure about how your children might react, a good way to get your younger ones acquainted with an animal before a big commitment is a game like Little Friends: Cats & Dogs. This Nintendo Switch game tasks players with feeding, playing with and loving their own virtual cat or dog. Much like Nintendogs or even Tamagotchi of the 90s, Little Friends is a fun way to build up confidence to owning a real animal. While only a 1 player game, Little Friends: Cats & Dogs is suitable for all ages and entirely offline, so there's nothing at all to worry about when they're enjoying it alone.

YOUTUBE KIDS



YouTube Kids takes the popular YouTube format and curates a more specialised environment for children to search through. While any age range can benefit from YouTube Kids, the 'Preschool' Mode is specifically designed for kids aged 4 and under. According to the app's description, 'Preschool' Mode promotes creativity, playfulness, learning and exploration through its channels. The inclusion of parental controls (limited screen-time, video blocking and flagging) and strict advert monitoring by YouTube means the experience is incredibly safe for younger kids. It should be noted that in the app description, YouTube say that some inappropriate content can slip through the cracks, but they're constantly implementing updates to stop these. A hugely popular app, YouTube Kids is available on iOS and Android with well over 100 million downloads.

BBC iPLAYER KIDS



This app is designed for kids and lets them watch all their favourite CBBC and CBeebies shows in one place. The simple presentation is super easy to navigate and the app itself is entirely free on both Android and iOS with no adverts whatsoever. BBC iPlayer Kids can download shows to your device's internal storage allowing you to take all the best bits with you when there's no WiFi and multiple profiles mean everybody gets straight to their favourites with minimal fuss. According to the app description, it will ask for your child's name and age to recommend other programmes it thinks they might like.

MARIO KART 8 DELUXE



Mario Kart has been a staple of Nintendo consoles since 1992. It has been a favourite of young and old alike for over 20 years and is always an incredibly fun experience. Now exclusively on the Nintendo Switch with Mario Kart 8, the bells and whistles may have changed, but the enjoyable core gameplay and challenge have not. Suitable for all ages, Mario Kart can be played alone, online or at home with up to 4 players on one screen. The ability to take the Switch out with you into the world and play wherever you like is a huge advantage over other games and means you can always be sure of some quick entertainment.

ROCKET LEAGUE



The concept behind Rocket League takes teams of jet-fuelled cars zipping around football-inspired pitches in an attempt to knock a giant, over-sized ball into nets. Rated PEGI 3, the challenge of Rocket League is probably more suited to those 5 and up, but anybody can enjoy the bright colours and fun gameplay. Rocket League is available on Windows PC, Mac, PlayStation, Xbox One and Nintendo Switch at various price points. Be warned though, you can spend money in the game for certain items so be sure you know when your young ones are playing and what they're buying.

Meet our expert



Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGBible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



Thank you
Miss Aldam, Miss Howes & Miss Payne