

Weekly Newsletter

W.B. 27.4.26

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 continued their next story writing focus. We have continued looking at key spelling rules for adding a range of suffixes to root words. we learnt about the suffixes 'er' and 'est'. The suffix 'er' is used for comparing and is called a 'comparative' adjective and the suffix 'est' is used for comparing more than two things and is therefore a 'superlative' adjective. For example, this cake is tasty, that cake is tastier but those sweets are the tastiest. We then applied the prefix 'un' to words to make them the opposite meaning e.g. safe = unsafe. At the end of the week, we practised writing questions the characters may have asked in the story. The children knew to start with a capital letter, question word and end with a question mark. For example, 'Why do we have to go through the squelchy mud? Sarah asked.

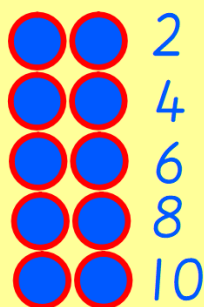
Can your child tell you a sentence with an 'er' and 'est' word in?

Can your child tell you what the prefix 'un' does to a word?

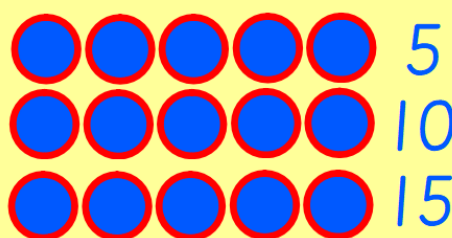
Can your child generate a question for the story?

As part of **Maths**, the children have continued their unit of multiplication and division. The children have recapped how to multiply by 2, 5 and 10 using arrays.

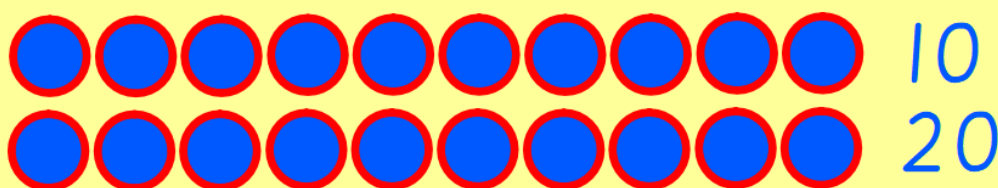
$$5 \times 2 = 10$$



$$3 \times 5 = 15$$



$$2 \times 10 = 20$$



Can your child solve the following by drawing arrays?

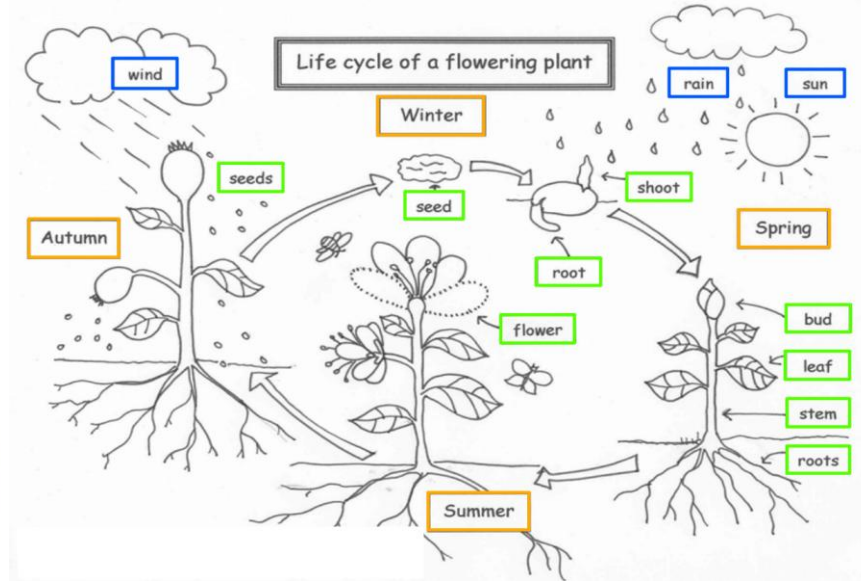
$$7 \times 2 =$$

$$2 \times 5 =$$

$$4 \times 10 =$$

Our topic for this half term is 'Enchanted Woodland'. As part of topic lessons, the children have started their Science learning. We learnt about the life cycle of a plant, focusing on the parts of a plant and the effects of weather.

Can your child tell you which part of a plant blossoms in the Summer?



After that, we learnt about trees including evergreen trees, deciduous trees and how seasonal changes affect plants. The children know that an evergreen tree keeps its leaves green all year round and that deciduous trees lose their leaves seasonally. The children sorted pictures of a deciduous tree throughout the seasons into the correct boxes.

Season	Tree
Summer	
Autumn	
Winter	
Spring	

Can your child tell you how we can find out if a tree is evergreen or deciduous? (The leaves on an evergreen tree have 4 features: small, thin/pointy, strong and waxy/looks shiny)

Can your child tell you what happens to a deciduous tree in Autumn?

Attendance for KS1:

- Class 7 - 99.7%
- Class 8 - 94.7%
- Class 9 - 96.7%

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 - Roblox

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 "Roblox". Please note that only children aged 7+ should be accessing this.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

ROBLOX



With more than 150 million users worldwide, Roblox is one of the most popular video games of recent times. Roblox allows users to create their own gaming experiences using Roblox Studio: building levels and games then allowing other people to play them. Similarly, players can play each other's creations, either on their own or with other people online. While it's a tool that can help foster creative thinking, Roblox is also intermittently in the news amid concerns over young users' safety.

No Age Rating

Roblox is rated 7+ by PEGI, but the platform itself doesn't have a minimum age requirement. It does ask for a date of birth when registering, but this can be easily fabricated. The sheer quantity of games available on Roblox means that some will fall into teen/adult categories. Users can also interact with each other freely – and the game has, historically, attracted scammers, griefers and online predators.



In-App Purchases

Roblox is the in-game currency used to buy things like special outfits or emotes, and to play certain sections of the game. A subscription service (costing £4.99 per month) called Roblox Premium offers more privileges and more in-game currency. Robux can also be purchased in batches, for up to £4.99. Children can easily pay for these, or purchase a membership, without realising it.

Chat Functionality

Users can join group chats with almost anyone through the Chat & Party function. While the chat has some filters, predators still try to find ways around these to prey on young children. There have been recent reports of adults pretending to be children, attempting to groom younger players and encouraging them to chat privately in an unmoderated environment away from the game.

ODers

An 'ODer' (online dater) joins Roblox to find someone to 'date' online. While there's nothing inherently wrong with finding love on the internet, it becomes an issue in a space that's populated by children and young teens, like Roblox. Online dating is against Roblox's community guidelines, but certain player-built games on the platform are specifically for 'ODers' and should be avoided by children.

Online Predators

Roblox's developers aim to maintain a safe place for children; they employ human moderators for their players' protection. But there will, sadly, always be individuals who try to bypass these safeguards so they can chat to children and attempt to communicate outside the game. Anyone asking for your child's personal information or to talk privately should be blocked and reported.



Advice for Parents & Carers



Take Note of Ratings

Recent press reports drew attention to Roblox's issues with potentially offensive content. Some players were using Roblox Studio to create games featuring nudity, sexual activity and extreme political views. In response, Roblox is introducing a ratings system which will rank content by age appropriateness, with clear warnings if a game is not suitable for younger players.



Set Parental Controls

Roblox has controls that allow parents to moderate who their children can talk to and which games they can play. To enable these, add your email address to your child's account through the Security menu, and create a secure PIN to stop settings being tampered with. Then head into the Privacy menu where you can apply moderation to in-game chat, personal messages, invites and more.



Disable Messages

It's advisable to block all messaging if you have concerns over your child's safety. If they're playing with friends they know in real life, encourage them to chat in another way (like on the phone), so you know exactly who they're talking to and how. Accounts can be tweaked to allow messages from specific groups of people, such as friends or users that your child follows.



Block and Report

To report players in a game, find the Roblox symbol on screen (or the 'Settings' button on some devices). Identify the offending player and click the flag icon. Clarify why the player is being reported by choosing a reason from the list. If you think a particular game is inappropriate, you can also flag it for a moderator to check by following the same steps but selecting 'Game' instead of 'Player'.



Encourage Creativity

It could prove a little too complex for younger children, but Roblox Studio is a great place to start learning the fundamentals of game design. Many budding developers have created Roblox games which have become popular among the community. There are plenty of tutorials on making games on sites like YouTube. You never know, your child's creation might be the next big thing!



Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the 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.



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Thank you
Miss Aldam, Miss Howes & Miss Payne