



Parents in Partnership

Topic
Newsletter

Topic Tasks: Spring Week 5

Chinese New Year 2019-The Year of the Pig



Topic news

As part of our topic work on, 'Once Upon a Time,' we have now worked on 4 traditional tales, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, The Three Little Pigs and Little Red Riding Hood.

Next week, we will be looking at the stories and traditions linked to Chinese New Year.

This year Chinese New Year runs from 5th February-19th February and this year is 'The Year of the Pig.'

We will be learning the story of how the years were named and will learn about traditions and customs linked to the celebration. The order of the animal years lends itself well to teaching the children about ordinal numbers, so in preparation for this work, you may like to carry out the following tasks.

- Using toys or other household objects, make a line and help your child develop their understanding of order and position by asking questions such as, 'Which teddy is 4th in the line?' or 'Point to the teddy that is in first place.' etc...
 - You could even extend the activity by rolling cars down a ramp and asking, 'What colour car finished in 2nd place?' or 'Point to the car that is in 5th place.' etc...
- This work will prepare the children well when they listen to the story of The Jade Emperor and the animals' swimming race that determined the names of the 12 animal years in the Chinese Zodiac.

Key words

We thank you for supporting your child in helping them learn their key words. We work on a weekly basis with each child on their individual words and can really see the progress that regular practise gives the children. We ask you to continue to support the children with these as when the children become proficient at reading the words, we intend to start helping them learn to spell these words, so please do keep up the good work you are doing at home.

Handwriting

We have continued to teach the children the entry stroke to our pre-cursive script and as you work with your child, please remind them to start from the 'baseline' and to go 'up the hill' every time they form an entry stroke.

This week our focus letter has been 'o.'. This letter follows on from 'c, a and d' and is the fourth letter in the 'Curly Caterpillar Group'. Please work with your child on forming this letter and use the following vocabulary,

'Up the hill, over the top, STOP. All the way back round the roundabout and flick.'

By using this language, you will reinforce our work at school and help your child form their letters.

Encourage your child to use a range of tools. If they find manipulating smaller tools difficult at this time, perhaps work with water and paintbrushes in the garden, or paint and paint brushes on large sheets of paper. Rainbow writing is also fun, so a range of colourful felt tips or colouring pencils could be used.

Thank you.

Tricky Words

In our phonics lessons we have continued to teach the children their tricky words. We explain that these are words that cannot be sounded out, but that you learn by 'sight.' These are the words that we have worked on so far.

the	to	I
no	go	into
he	she	we
me	be	was
you	they	all
are	my	her
said	have	like
so	do	some
come	little	one
were	there	what
when	out	oh
Mrs	people	their
Mr	looked	called

Songs we have enjoyed learning.

Over the past 2 weeks, we have been teaching the children how to answer the register in Spanish and in French. We have also been learning to count up to 10 in these languages. To help us, the children have sung along to these songs which you may like to look at at home.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ydJr1Is8xI>

If this link is long to type, just place 'You Tube-Spanish Counting Song' in your search box and your child will show you the correct song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsc3qLMacu8>

If this link is long to type, just place 'You Tube-French Counting Song' in your search box and your child will show you the correct song.

Please let us know how you get on with singing these songs together.

Parents in Partnership Letters on our website

Just to let you know, if you ever misplace a Parents in Partnership newsletter, they are all available on the school website. Just go to <http://www.staugustine.s.dorset.sch.uk/website/reception/3032>

Thank you.

Phonics and Word blending

Please note that this week we have added the letters 'ou/ow and er/ir/ur' to your child's phonics book. Please spend time looking at all the letters in the phonics books we have so far taught.

s	a	t	p	i	n	m
d	g	o	c	k	e	u
f	r	h	b	l	j	v
w	x	y	z	q	ch	sh
th	ng	ai	ee	or	igh/ie	oa
oo/oo	ar	ou/ow	er/ir/ur			

The words below are words containing ou/ow and er/ir/ur that you could help your child decode using their 'robot' arms.'

her	girl	curl	out	cow
mixer	skirt	nurse	loud	now
digger	shirt	purse	cloud	wow

Please cut off and return this slip to school. Thank you.

My child's response to the tasks.