

Reception Newsletter

Week Beginning – Monday 5th October 2026

Phonics - Phase 2

So far your children have been taught the sounds; s, a, t, p, l, n, m, d. It is **really important that you practise these at home with your child.**

This week, we will be introducing g, o, c, k.

We are working really hard on segmenting and blending.

Blending is the process of combining sounds together to create a word. For example, the word cat is made up of three sounds /c/-/a/-/t/ together these sounds produce the spoken word cat. Segmenting is the process of breaking a word down into its individual sounds. For example, the word cat is made up of three sounds.

Repetition with our 12 sounds will really help your child to tune into segmenting and blending.

We use robot arms and phoneme fingers to break down words.

For Phonics, we use pure sounds, so we don't add 'uh' on the end of words.

Please follow the link for a video for pure sounds.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc>

Reading at home



At Darrick Wood Infants, we use an online system called Boomreader to log reading with your child, it is our online reading record. Teachers and Teaching Assistants will begin reading with your child on a 1-2-1 basis from next week and they will record their interactions on Boomreader for you to access.

This is also where you will record comments on a weekly basis about how your child is getting on – we expect every parent to comment once a week.

Your child will be sent home with a reading pack, including their **BoomReader login. Reading books will start to be sent home from Monday 12th October. Your child will then have one week to read that book before being changed again the following week. Please read with your child every day for at least 10 minutes.**

It is expected that your child's book comes to school every day.

Please do not put water bottles in bags with books.

Miss Samuels will talk more about Boomreader, Bug Club and Doodle Maths at the Reception Information morning on Thursday 8th October.

Helpful comments look like this –

Engagement – Amy liked that this book was about cats because she has a pet cat at home!

Word reading – Amy was able to identify some sounds in the words. When I said /sip/ she said I can hear /s/ at the beginning of the word.

Amy needed support to recognise tricky irregular word 'the'

Comprehension – Amy was able to use sequence the story about what the cat did. 'First the cat went on the mat. Then it had a nap.' Amy was able to talk about what she read. Amy liked reading about the cats.

Bug Club

Bug Club is an online Reading and Phonic resource. Your child will be coming home with their Bug Club logins in their **reading packs** soon. When you login you will be able to access lilac (wordless) books, pink books and phonics games linking to our sounds of the



Communication, Language & Literacy

This week, we will be looking at our book Oh Dear Look What I got! We will be looking at **rhyming pairs** and matching them. This helps the children with their segmenting and blending skills. The children will also be labelling with the initial sounds of words.

Oh Dear, Look What I Got!



Michael Rosen

Helen Oxenbury



carrot



parrot



cake



snake



hat



cat



chair



bear



coat



goat



cup



pup

Nursery Rhymes of the Week

This Old Man
Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-a-to-z-index/z4ddgwx>

Diwali

To help support our Understanding of the World learning we would love to hear from families who celebrate Diwali. Would you be willing to come in and share with our children what Diwali is and how your family celebrate it?

Please speak to your child's class teacher if you can help!

Diwali 2026 main celebrations will take place on Sunday 8th November 2026 and we will explore Diwali through our Colour/Light and Firework Night learning.

Mathematics

Focus: Talk about measure and pattern

This week we will be starting our new topic 'Talk about measure and pattern.' The children will learn to compare size, mass and capacity using vocabulary such as big/small, heavy/light, holds more/holds less. The children will layout a picnic for the Three Bears matching the correct size plate, bowl, cup and spoon to the correct bear. Later in the week, they will compare the mass of items using the balance scales and learn that the heavier item will be lower on the balance scale and the lighter item will be higher. We will address the common misconception that larger items are always heavier than smaller ones.

In provision, the children will have the opportunity to investigate which containers hold the most by counting how many scoops of rice it takes to fill each one.



Our 'Key instant recall fact' for this half term is:

To recite numbers to 10

Please practise with your child regularly at home to ensure that they can do this confidently and accurately.

Activities you can try at home to consolidate this learning:

Have a go at making our own balance scale using a coat hanger, string and two containers. Compare the mass of two different items by placing one item in each container. What happens to the balance? What does this tell us about the mass of the items? Can you find two items that have the same mass?



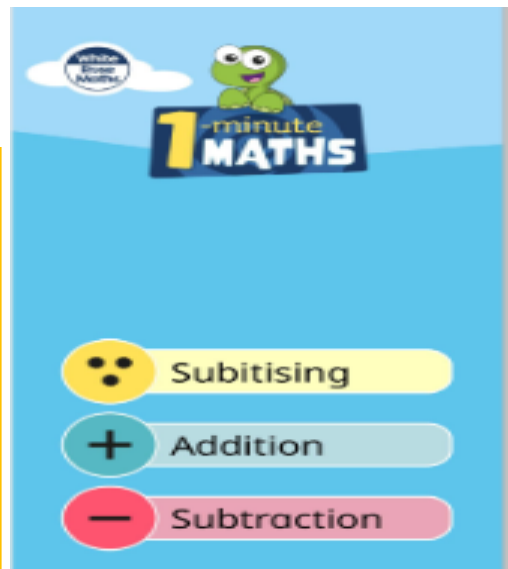
Provide children with some coloured water and different-sized containers in a water tray to make different potions.



Encourage children to compare the different containers and investigate which containers hold less/more.

Free download! White Rose Maths-1-minute Maths

You can download the White Rose 1-minute maths app to help your child to build greater number confidence and fluency. The **subitising** tab is appropriate for Reception children at this stage. Subitising is the important skill of recognising how many things are in a group without having to count them one by one.



PSED

We will be learning to talk about when they might feel unsafe or unhappy. We will be able to name the people who will help them and notice when a friend is in need at school and help them.

Physical Education

This week, we will be participating in games and developing the fundamental skills of PE. They will be exploring spaces, movement and locomotion, position and direction and actions and dynamic movements.

Mole Class will have PE on Tuesday.

Hedgehog Class will have PE on Thursday.

Badger Class will have PE on Friday.



Expressive Arts and Design

This week, we will be learning about Giuseppe Arcimboldo who is an artist who is famous for his piece called **Vertumnus** - Vegetable Man. We will be learning about the technique of collage and carefully choosing where we would like to place different fruit and vegetables to create a portrait. We will also be completing observational drawings of different fruits and vegetables. **This will be our CHALLENGE MOUNTAIN learning for the week.**

Reminders

Please come along to our Reception Curriculum Information morning on Thursday 8th October where Miss Samuels will be going into more detail about how to help your child with reading.

Please remember to send your child's library to school each week so they are able to swap it and get a new book.

Parent Consultations

Friday 9th October: **Book Look**– Come and in and see the lovely learning happening in Reception Classes. This will help you understand what the children have been learning in school so far.

Tuesday 13th October: Parent Consultation evening

Thursday 15th October: Parent Consultation evening

Please remember appointments are scheduled for ten minutes and teachers must keep to a tight schedule!

Thank you from the Reception Team!