

Reception Newsletter

Friday 2nd February 2024

In phonics this week the children have learnt a new trigraph: **air (chair in the air)**. The children know a trigraph is 'three letters, one sound.' The children have also learnt '**er (a bigger digger)**' which is a digraph, 'two letters, one sound.' We have been focusing on double letters this week too (dd, mm, tt, bb, rr, gg, pp, ff) and how we quite often find double letters in the middle of longer words and know these as digraphs too. The children have been reviewing previous Tricky Words taught and learning the following new Tricky Words this week: *are, sure* and *pure*. I will send copies home so you can practise these new ones.



Tricky Words do not follow the normal phonic patterns so children need to learn to recognise the word and read them on sight. In our lessons we discuss what the tricky part of each word is, for example, in the word 'my' the 'y' is the tricky part because in this word it doesn't make the regular 'y' sound, it makes an 'I' sound. Ask your child what the tricky part is and see if they can tell you. You can play different games to support the children reading these words. You may like to have the words face down on the table/floor, ask the child to turn a word over, can they read it and say a sentence with that word in it? They could get a point for each word they read correctly. You could write numbers on the back of the word card (1-6) and then roll a dice and then ask the child to pick a word with that number on and read it and place that word in a sentence. Or use any other fun way to practise reading these words.

Some of the words may be a little challenging for some children and you may like to go back to focusing on a few words at a time, rather than all previous Tricky Words in one go. The words could be grouped like this:

Group 1 – *I, as, and, no, go, is*

Group 2 – *we, be, he, me, of, she*

Group 3 – *was, you, my, by, are*

Group 4 – *put, sure, pure, all, they, push, pull*

In our maths sessions this week we have been looking at addition or combining two sets by using pictorial representations as an aid. The children find how many altogether by counting how many in each set. We have continued to review and consolidate our knowledge of numbers 1-7 by asking the children to recognise an



arrangement of dots, the same as you would find on a dice, then showing that many using their fingers. The children are beginning to be able to do this quickly without needing to count the dots.

In R.E. this week we have been talking about our families and about how we have changed from when we were babies. We have discussed how we are special and unique no matter what we look like, what we are able to do, what our families look like or who is in our family. We have related this to how God is also called Father and that God and Jesus thought that all children were special too.

As part of our topic about Chinese New Year the children have been learning about the Story of the Zodiac this week and discovered how each year was named after a different animal. The children learnt about ordinal numbers by ordering where the animals came in the race (1st, 2nd, 3rd etc). We had great fun taking on the different roles and performing the story in groups. We have some terrific actors!

Just a reminder that on **Thursday 8th February** we are going to be having our Chinese New Year's Day Celebration to celebrate the end of our Chinese New Year topic and to celebrate being in the year of the dragon. The children can dress up on the day as previously mentioned in the CNY Day letter. Thank you for the £1.50 donations already received and I would ask that any more donations be sent in by **Monday 5th February** please. Many thanks.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs McKiernan

