



Friday 12th January

We hope that you all had a lovely Christmas break and very happy new year. The children have arrived back in school with plenty to talk about; they have clearly all had a wonderful time. We have been talking about Bromsgrove this week. A lot of children have some understanding of the area that they live in, we have talked a lot about the things that they like to do in Bromsgrove: swimming and Sanders Park are very popular with the children.

Next week we will discuss our country, we will talk about being British and what this means. We will talk about some British customs and about the different nations that make up Great Britain. If you have photos of adventures you may have had as a family around Great Britain then we would love to share them with the children. Please send them to the class email address for your child.



Phonics

We have begun our new term by exploring the first phase-3 sounds. These are digraphs and trigraphs that represent the long vowel sounds: ai, ee, igh and oa. These sounds are tricky to spot within words but will really help the children as they move towards being independent readers and writers. Each phase 3 sound has a memorable rhyme to help the children recall the sound, these are attached.



Reading

When you share your child's reading book together please spend time together looking at and talking about the front cover and the title page. The title and the front cover are really important. They provide so many clues about what the book is about and help in the vital skills of prediction and comprehension.

Mathematics

This week in Maths, we explored the concept of zero representing nothing or an empty space. Much of our focus this half term will be exploring the composition of the numbers 1-5 which we will be exploring from next week.

P.E. and Forest School

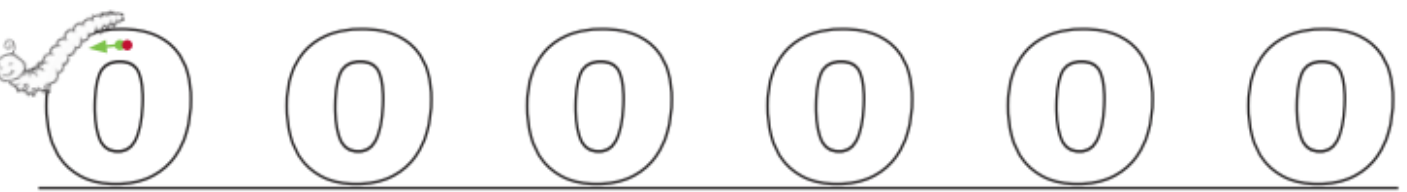
Forest School sessions begin again next week. Both classes are still having Forest School sessions on Tuesdays. As winter settles in, Forest School sessions are dependent on the weather and there may be some weeks where we are unable to go outside. We will always endeavour to take the children to the forest if it is safe to do so. Please **send in named gloves and hats** as well as the temperature has really dropped recently and we do aim to be outside for a long time.

A reminder that Goslings PE has moved to Thursdays while Cygnets PE remains on Fridays.

In order to deepen the children's individual knowledge of themselves and their immediate environment it would be helpful if you could discuss a few things with your child over the weekend. Please could you discuss your address i.e.. street and house number, where your child was born, if you were born somewhere different, and where family members that you may visit live for example, Grandma, might live in Cheltenham, which is a town that is bigger than Bromsgrove and you get there by driving down the motorway? You might also enjoy finding your house together on Google Earth.

Handwriting

A lot of children have problems with their letter formation because they form their letters in a clockwise direction instead of anti-clockwise. This is usually a habit that has formed before they have started school and is very hard to correct. Please either print this page out or do the activity on a white board. Please do not use a biro if printing out, but a pencil without a rubber on the end.



ai



tail in the rain

Open your mouth wide and say **ai ai ai**

ee



sheep in a jeep

Smile with your lips apart and say **ee ee ee**

igh



a light in the night

Open your mouth in a relaxed way and say **igh igh igh**

oa



soap that goat

Make an 'o' with your mouth and say **oa oa oa**