

Dear Parents

What a fun packed week, full of pumpkins, potions and magic!

The week began with an all-time favourite story, Room on the Broom. The children were then introduced to 'Witchy Copeland' who needed their help mixing a potion for the perfect class. The recipe involved them learning the vocabulary associated with capacity and pouring out different amounts of dragon blood, frog breath, inky slime and mouse tails. There was some great discussion with Nell explaining half full meant in the middle and Harvey telling us nearly full meant it was still 'a little bit empty at the top.'



Throughout the week the children helped Witchy Copeland order containers with different amounts of potion in and work out which container held the most potion. The results were quite surprising. In the outside area, the children were given the opportunity to make their own concoctions at the potion table and consolidate their understanding of the various capacity terms. This can also be practiced at home during bath time or in the kitchen sink! Ask the children

to fill different sized and shaped containers to nearly empty, half full, nearly full, full and overflowing.

Also in maths we played a game called 'race to fill the cup' We took it in turns to roll the dice and fill our cups with that amount of cubes. The first person to fill their cup was the winner. The game brought out a lot of maths reasoning when we discussed who had more/less, how full our cups were at different stages and estimating how many more cubes could fit in the cup. Again this is a great game to play at home.



Keeping with our magical theme, in other areas of the class room we have been making our own magic wands and casting spells upon each other. We have made pumpkin heads with the pumpkin pie play dough and built our arm strength by hammering golf tees into real pumpkins.



In phonics this week we have continued to be introduced to some more digraphs (two letters making one sound) as well as some of the final single letter sounds.

This week's sounds were

oa, ie, ee/or, z and w

We have been very impressed with children's ability to pick up the digraphs and their attempts to join the letters together when practicing the formation. Ee/or is taught together, so it fits with the picture and action of the donkey, however we explained to the children that it is either one or the other within a word. We spent a long time listening to words and deciding if it was an ee or an or and we had some great assistant taking on the role of the two digraph!



This month's whole school value is fairness and this week we learnt to retell the story of the Little Red Hen with actions. After the retelling there was some great discussion about fairness. Was it fair for the animals to not help? Was it fair for the animals to expect to eat the bread at the end? Was it fair for the Little Red Hen to share the bread?

We are having a special Reception event for the children next Friday 26th October, to celebrate the end of their first half term at Big School. We don't want to tell you too much and spoil the surprise for them, but they will need to bring some party clothes in a labelled bag on that day.

What a busy week! Well done Reception, have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Copeland and Mrs McCarthy

Notes

- **Remember packed lunches and waterproof coat for Monday's trip.**
- **Parents Evening Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd**
- **Special Reception Event, Friday 26th September. Please send children with party clothes in a labelled bag.**