

Dear Parents

We would like to begin by saying a huge well done to all of the children for completing their first half term at 'Big School.' All the staff have commented on how well they have settled in to school and we hope they all enjoyed their Big School Celebration party this morning.

We had a fantastic trip on Monday to Spilman's farm where the children enjoyed a tractor ride to learn about the different crops growing in the fields, visited the fairy tree and swing, before venturing into the pumpkin field to pick their own pumpkin. We took our pumpkins back to the carving barn where we had great fun scooping out all the seeds and flesh from the inside and creating our own designs to be carved. There was a spooky cinema, maize maze, fun walk (we avoided the dark scary one!!) and some singing pumpkins. It was a super day and we were so impressed with how well the children coped with a change in routine.



Phonics

We continue to be impressed with how keen the children are to learn the day's sound and how well they are remembering the previous sounds.

Floppy's adventures have continued leading us to learn four more sounds **ng**, **v**, **oo/oo**, and **y**. Thursday's oo sound was challenging as the children learnt how one spelling can produce two different sounds;

- Short oo - u - book
- Long oo - food

We had a lot of practice saying different 'oo' words and identifying if the sound was long and short.

We reminded the children to join the letters where there were two letters making the one sound, but also explained that if they found forming their letters tricky they could print them rather than join them. The children are working really well during these sessions and are picking up the sounds and actions brilliantly. We have had some super attempts at sounding out simple words and trying to write them on our whiteboards.

Home Challenges

Today we are sending home a set of home challenges for the children to have a go at. They can be done in any order and in any format you choose to do them. We hope your child will enjoy doing the challenges and we will let you know when they need to be returned to school. If you have any questions regarding the tasks, feel free to contact us about them.

Thank you to you all for attending parents evening this week. We hope you found it useful and enjoyed looking through your child's learning journey and busy book. In Reception we are always looking to ensure that the children and parents enjoy the transition to Primary school from other settings and we have devised a short feedback questionnaire to support this. We would really appreciate any feedback and would ask that the questionnaires be returned to school or via email when you have the opportunity to do so.

After half term there will be a small change to the children's morning routine. Instead of coming straight to the classroom, at 8.40, the children will now follow the rest of the children on to the main playground and line up in their usual place when the morning whistle blows. Collecting at home time will remain the same.

Finally, we would like to thank you all for your support during this first half term and we look forward to welcoming you back after the half term break from more exciting adventures in Reception Class.

What a fantastic start to Big School Reception Class, we are very proud of you all. Have a good rest over half term and be ready to come back and work hard again!

Mrs Copeland and Mrs McCarthy

Notices

- We would really appreciate any cardboard tubes (kitchen roll size) for a project we are planning for the first week back.
- School disco **Thursday 8th November, 6pm -7pm** in the village hall.
- Remember to follow us on twitter [@AlnePrimary](https://twitter.com/AlnePrimary) to see what is going in Reception Class.