

Dear Parents

Welcome back, we hope you had a lovely half term. The children have come back raring to go and have been very busy in class this week.

We started on Monday by talking about bonfire night and looked at some of the traditions that people follow during this event. Many of the class had been to a firework display so we talked about the beautiful colours and the sounds created by fireworks. This led way to a variety of activities in class including creating large scale firework pictures on the painting wall outside, where we used straws bundled together as a printing tool. The children also made individual firework pictures using wax crayons and paint wash, before using a technique involving scraping away the paint to reveal colours.



In our busy books this week we have been writing words to go with the fantastic firework images we created on the computer. We are really impressed with how many children are having a go at sounding out and writing words independently.

We also did some science investigative work, looking at what happens to chocolate when it is heated and then how it changes again when cooled. We hope the children enjoyed their chocolate apples.



### 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 are almost over as we learnt five more of the 10 remaining sounds **x**, **ch**, **th/th**, **sh** and **qu**. Wednesday's **th** sound was another challenging digraph as the children learnt how this spelling can also produce two different sounds;

- Quiet th - thin
- Loud th - the

We had a lot of practice saying different 'th' words and identifying if the sound was quiet or loud. Sticking our tongues out clearly helped us get them right!

In Numeracy we have been looking at the vocabulary of one more and one less than a given number this week. Activities have included counting a number of objects then either adding one more or taking one away and seeing how many we had left. The children were getting very good at doing this by the end of the week, with some even doing it in their heads.

At the end of the week we also watched a beautiful short story created by Cbeebies called Poppy, linked to Remembrance. We briefly talked about why we wear poppies and where the money goes before creating some of our own poppies in and around the classroom. We painted large pictures on the painting wall, used chalks to draw them on the ground and also used a selection of materials and objects to make abstract pictures of poppies.



This half term we are going to be carrying out some more detailed observations on each child in an activity called "Follow with me". Each week we will focus on two children and will send home a short questionnaire for you to complete prior to us following your child with any information you would wish to know more about.

Thank you to everyone for remembering to line up in the playground and well done to all the children for being so grown up.

Have a great weekend Reception, see you on Monday.

Mrs Copeland and Mrs McCarthy

### Notices

- Now the children are established with reading books and are keen to get new ones when read, we will be changing them on a Monday and a Thursday each week. Please make sure you sign the orange reading record to say your child has read the books at home as we will only change them if it has been recorded as read. Many thanks.