

# Reception Newsletter

## April 2022

### Workout Wednesday

'Workout Wednesday' is a great hit with the children. They really enjoy completing activities that help develop their gross motor skills and fine motor skills such as riding balance bikes, practising throwing and catching skills and completing activities for funky fingers. The children are also enjoying learning about the importance of keeping healthy. Developing independence is an essential skill in Early Years and includes learning to dress and undress themselves. Please can you try to encourage your child to get dressed themselves. Praising their efforts will really help towards them becoming more independent.

### What can you see and how do you see it?

In the indoor and outdoor classroom we have been doing lots of noticing. As adults we model the question, what can you see and how do you see it? Children's responses are below linked with a photo that we took when out on a walk.

'I can see 2 and 1'.

'I can see 2 and 1'

'I can see 1 and 1 and 1'

'I can see 2 and 1'

Have a go at 'noticing' when you're out and about. What can you see and how do you see it?



Welcome back everyone, we hope you had a lovely Easter break. We are very excited to be back in school with all of the Reception children for our final term together. We can't believe how much they have all grown!

### Phonics

Please can you continue to use the sound mats at home to practise the phase 2 and phase 3 sounds? The side without the pictures will be great in consolidating and rehearsing what they have been taught in school. One particular game that the children really enjoy is using both mats to send an 'email'. Give them a word, for example 'rain'. Ask them to segment the word r-ai-n, and then 'type' this on their mat. This helps with recognising sounds, becoming familiar with the sound mat and segmenting words ready to write.

Below is a link showing how we encourage children to pronounce these in a 'pure' way.

<https://learn.readwithphonics.com/school/phonics-games> click on phonics sound wall. We will also be putting an example on our school website very soon.

### Planning for your child's learning journey

Your child will bring home a sheet prior to their focus week in the summer term. May we ask you to take a few minutes to fill this in, and return to school along with a few photographs (these can also be emailed)?

Your child will be encouraged to talk about what has been written and about the photos they have brought in too. The links to home are wonderful and the children see how experiences from home are valued by the school. They also provide a great insight into how they interact and learn at home too.

**Reading books** Children will continue to **read on a Tuesday (for some children this will be every other Tuesday, though will still receive a new reading book)** and have their **books changed on a Friday if they have been read and a comment is in their reading record. Please could book-bags, with their reading books (or flashcards if you have these) come into school everyday? Thank you.**

## How can I help my child with their reading at home?

**Reading books** Children will continue to **read on a Tuesday (for some children this will be every other Tuesday, though will still receive a new reading book)** and have their **books changed on a Friday if they have been read and a comment is in their reading record. Please could bookbags, with their reading books (or flashcards if you have these) come into school everyday? Thank you.**



As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. When you help your child learn to read, you are opening the door to a world of books and learning.

**Reading or practising blending and segmenting for 5 minutes every night is essential in laying the foundations for your child to both read and write.** The reading book that your child brings home is based on their phonic knowledge and focused on being able to blend sounds together to read the words accurately and fluently. Games/ flashcards to practise blending skills may also be sent home. Please practise these games as much as you can as they are an integral part to your child learning to read. Encourage your child to say the sounds in the word that they can see, (including recognising the digraphs as one sound) and then blend it together. Tricky words, such as 'the' 'l' 'to' are words that the children just need to recognise, these can't be segmented. We want to support you as much as we can so will be putting a video onto Seesaw, demonstrating how to read with your child at home. We hope you will find this useful.

Reading with your child and giving the gift of reading for pleasure from an early age really is probably one of the best gifts you can give to your child to help their future and their development! Snuggling with your child and sharing a book together is great for developing healthy relationships and well-being, creating special memories, you will love the same book over and over which may drive you crazy but rest assured, they are developing new vocabulary which they will become more confident with. In Reception we want to encourage and support this love of books. The children will continue to choose a shared reading book from our book corner to share with you at home. Enjoy and engage in the excitement of sharing this book with them, Additionally, asking questions about the book – e.g. favourite bits, what might happen next etc. is a way of furthering this development and engaging with your child about the book in a positive and thoughtful way.

### Mystery Reader

At St Francis we strive to foster a love of reading both in school and at home. The aim of the scheme is to show children that adults love reading too so we would like to invite parents, grandparents or other family members to read a children's book to their child's class. This could be a book you particularly enjoyed reading when you were growing up or a current children's book which you have at home. In order for the class to gain the full impact and excitement of the reader experience, we would like to keep it a secret and a mystery, even from your own child! If you would be interested in supporting us with this please email [frmwatson@stfrancispri.dalesmat.org](mailto:frmwatson@stfrancispri.dalesmat.org) or speak to either Mrs Watson, Mrs Shaw or Miss Gibson at drop off or pick up. We look forward to hearing from you.



### Homework

Children will have homework that will be put on seesaw or given as a paper copy every three weeks. This will be practical and hands on where possible, and may include, going for a ride on their balance bike/bike/scooter, going to the park/walk in the woods, or making something with boxes for example. A MarvellousMe will be sent out to inform you when this has been put on to Seesaw.

Reading your child's book with them is also part of their homework. Five minutes each night will make a huge difference to their learning. Please could you write in their reading record how they have got on? This really helps us in supporting your child with any difficulties they may be having.

### Class Reading Bear

We are soon going to be sending a reading bear home with the children so that they may read their reading book to him/her and share any other books with them. We hope that the children will really enjoy this experience of reading with the bear. If you could write in your child's reading record as usual how your child read and how the class bear enjoyed listening to them read that would be great. We will then share the child's experience with the rest of the class, giving them the opportunity to talk about how much fun it was reading to bear. If you wish to email a photo you may, though this is not something which needs to be done. Our email addresses are: [frmwatson@stfrancispri.dalesmat.org](mailto:frmwatson@stfrancispri.dalesmat.org), [frcgibson](mailto:frcgibson) or [frcshaw](mailto:frcshaw), followed by the end part of the email.



### Proud Clouds

We will be sending home some 'Proud Clouds' to help us find out a little more about your child's achievements. Please write down any of your child's successes. No matter how big or small they are, the children love to share these, and they love it when the rest of the children recognise this achievement.



We are encouraging the children to become more resilient learners in our Reception classes. Encouraging your child to persevere with, practising to fasten their coat, getting dressed on a morning, practising writing their name, using a knife and fork to eat their dinner, is vital to their learning. Allowing our children to be challenged in all areas, will allow them to build upon their confidence and be successful. It's okay for our children to experience failure, it is such an important part of their growth and developing resilience.

As always, if you have any questions at all. Please don't hesitate to contact us in school whether this be over the phone, via email or in person. No question is a silly question. We are here to support where we can. The Reception Team