

Dear Families,

Over the last two weeks I have completed the statutory Reception Baseline Assessments (RBA) with all the children, completed my own phonics assessment and almost finished my own baseline assessments in maths. All this information will help build our curriculum for the remainder of the half term. There has also been time to continue getting to know the children through play, activities and games.

We began teaching maths more formally this week, thinking about matching objects and making sets. In phonics we have continued to play games to secure the children's understanding of Phase 1, thinking more about speech sounds and sound blending this week.

For PE, we went into the hall and explored the big space. We played some games to help us get to know each other, such as 'who's under the blanket' and Duck, Duck Goose. We ended by having a team ball bouncing game. I was very impressed by the children's ball skills, as well as their listening skills. I just realised I told you the wrong date for when I intend changing after PE in my last update, sorry for any confusion. It will in fact be Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October, so you still have lots of time for the children to practise getting into their uniform!

In RE, with Mrs Minshull on Monday afternoon, the children shared the Christian story of creation and then, over the week, I have continued working with the children to cut and stick pictures to help them remember the story. In addition to this, by using the information you gave me on Tapestry in the 'About Me' section and through chats with the children I printed pictures of characters they enjoy watching or sharing stories about. The children then chose the pictures they wanted to include on a collage of things they enjoy. We talked about how we sometimes like the same things as our friends but how we also sometimes like different things. I have put observations of the creation story on Tapestry for you and will finish the 'Things I like' observation over the weekend.

As I mentioned in my last update, a parent/carer phonics meeting letter went out yesterday inviting you all to meetings either next Thursday or Friday. Please let me have the reply slips back asap so I know how many to expect at each meeting. Direct phonics teaching of Phase 2, which you will learn more about that at the meetings, will start week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> September. Also, that same week, we have the individual children's photographs on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October and the Harvest Celebration on Friday 4<sup>th</sup>, to which you are all invited (it will be instead of the Family Celebration that week).

It was lovely to see so many of you at the first Family Celebration last week and so many again this week. Thank you for all your support, including returning the dinner menu on Monday last week. Our dinner routines are now getting established and the children enjoy discussing which dinner they are having each day with their friends.

I have put the menu for next week in the children's bags today.

On Friday next week we have a student teacher in training from Leeds Trinity University joining us in preparation for their placement over the coming weeks. I will let you have further information as I get it.

Have a great weekend and see you on Monday.  
Kind regards from Mrs Watts.