

Dear Families,

Diversity Role Models visited last week, we explored ideas about being different and how much better it is when we accept and celebrate each other's differences and include people instead of excluding them. We read a great story called 'Mixed' by Arree Chung. The story tells of how different colours learnt the value of mixing to create new colours and this fitted in really well with our colour mixing explorations to make the beautiful flower pictures for their Mother's Day cards. I also brought out my colour mixing play dough for the children to explore and experiment with. In other PSHE work we learned more about keeping ourselves safe at home and at school with Bobby and Watson the police bears.

In phonics we have been reviewing and practising more Phase Three GPC and tricky words, as well as doing some excellent writing for the mothers' day cards and Mrs Minshull's leaving card. In maths we have continued thinking about 3D shapes and pattern making. We explored more complex repeating patterns and tried to identify the 'repeat'.

This week has been Easter week for us in school and we have re-visited the Easter story and made Easter caves from clay and crosses from wood. These will be going into one of our special garden planters when the clay is dry after the holidays. We also had a very exciting Easter Egg hunt this week, where the children had to use their phonics and maths skills to find clues, build a sentence and then share their mini egg prizes with their group. We have also had lots of Easter challenges to do in the classroom and garden.

Mrs Jarvis' has given me the following information about her music lessons over the last two weeks: *We have been looking at the violin as the solo instrument in Vivaldi's Spring Concerto. We looked at the violin and thought about what it was made from and how to play it. The children learnt about the different ways of playing the violin with the bow and the different sounds it can make. We watched a demonstration clip and then we all had a go at pretending to play the violin. We listened to the different sounds they make in 'Spring' and what they made us think about. We thought it was very clever that the violin could make such different sounds. We finished off by learning about Nigel Kennedy and watching him play the violin in Vivaldi's Spring. This week we have been using Vivaldi's Spring Concerto to learn about dynamics. We learnt that 'dynamics' is a musical word to describe the volume of the music. The children learnt actions for remembering 'forte' meaning loud and 'piano' meaning soft. We listened to lots of different kinds of music and played games to help us recognise the changes in dynamics. We learnt that loud music isn't always fast and quiet music isn't always slow. We explored the idea of music always staying the same volume and talked about why we think it changes. We decided that music might get boring if the volume stayed the same and therefore not tell the story the composer intended to tell. We realised that the dynamics helped us imagine Vivaldi's picture of Spring.*

Thank you for your cards and good wishes for Mrs Minshull, who had her last day with us on Wednesday. It was an emotional day for her as we all wished her well and gave her the card the children had made for her. I'm very pleased to say that she won't be a stranger and has promised to come back and help with visits or classroom cover when needed, which is very good news.

Thank you also for coming to parent meetings. It's always a pleasure to talk about your brilliant children and make sure we're all on the same hymn sheet as far as supporting their learning is concerned. You should all be extremely proud of their progress and what delightful people they are.

I have collected in the lending library books until after the Easter holidays but we will start up again on the first week back. The children were ready for new homework books so I've put some sheets in

to do over the holiday. I have also made e-books available on Twinkl for them to continue progressing through the reading scheme 'Rhino Readers' books. I have put a record sheet at the back of their Reading record books for you to tick off the ones you do over the holidays. I just don't have enough paper copies to give everyone enough for two weeks and I think the children will enjoy the novelty of having e-books to read instead. I put information in the reading record about how to access the books and also showed the children.

Access is free for these e-books. Please work your way through them in sequence (they are grouped online as 3a, 3b and 3c but are not in any particular order apart from that. If you can do them in the suggested order on the record sheet that would be most helpful. Just do as many as you are able - you do not have to do them all! Re-read each book to build fluency and encourage the children to read with more expression as they become more fluent. Sounding out in their head is a great step forward, if they're ready for this but make sure they're not just guessing.

There is also access available through the same log in for phonics games. You can choose the level by clicking on the numbers that correspond to the Phases (they should be confident at Phase 3 but can do the Phase 2 as well if they wish). We will be starting Phase Four after Easter.

Have great Easter break and I will see you on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April for the start of the summer term (only twelve school weeks to go!).

Kind regards from Mrs Watts.