

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Friday 25th October 2019

We can't believe how quickly this half-term has gone and how well the children have settled in. Many thanks for your support over the last few weeks and for all your positive comments at parents evening. Please return the feedback form after the half-term break if you haven't done so already. This will then be stuck into your child's Learning Journey book.

We have sent home some "wow" notes. If your child does anything at home which you think is amazing please write it down and send it to school. This will then be also added to their Learning Journey book.

This week we have been assessing letter-sound recognition. Over the past halfterm we have been working on **Phase 1 Letters and Sounds** and for those children who were in Nursery last year we have been implementing some aspects of **Phase 2. Letters and Sounds** is a phonics resource which aims to build children's speaking and listening skills as well as to prepare children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. Phase 1 involves the children listening for sounds around them, playing instruments, body percussion, rhythm and rhyme, and using their voice to make different sounds. When the children are ready we will then blend letter sounds together to make words. Children entering **Phase Two** will have experienced a range of listening activities, including songs, stories and rhymes. They will be able to distinguish between speech sounds and many will be able to blend and segment words orally (c-a-t makes cat). Some will also be able to recognise spoken words that rhyme (dog fog log) and will be able to provide a string of rhyming words.

We have also been assessing children's number recognition and counting skills. Whilst out and about point out numbers to your child that you might see on houses, buses, car registration plates etc. Counting real objects in your home is also worthwhile, how many plates do we need at tea time? How many forks? Then count them out. How many do we have altogether? All of these activities will give your child a good sense of number around them. Shopping is another good time to count and spot numbers, eg We need 4 apples, let's count them into the basket and so on.

A reminder we finish for half-term today and we are off school for one week. We look forward to seeing you again after the half-term break.