

Reception 'Donaldson' Weekly

Newsletter - 19.1.24

What have we been up to this week?

This week we have been continuing to read 'Whatever Next!'

In Phonics this week we have learnt the new sounds **air** and **er**. *Please see the attached home learning sheet to help you practise these at home.* We have also learnt the new tricky words **are**, **sure** and **pure**. This week our focus words for spelling and writing have been **turn**, **hurt**, **down**, **now**, **join**, **boil**, **born**, **hear** and **near**.

In Literacy we have been learning to re-tell the story of 'Whatever Next' using our class story map and our story-telling actions. We hope to record this for you today! We have also been thinking about what baby bear might be thinking and what he might say in different parts of the story.

We have drawn our own story maps this week too to re-tell the story in our own words.

This week in numeracy we have been learning about ordering the numerals 1-5 and matching them to quantities. We have been building staircase patterns and noticing the 'one more' pattern as we go up the staircase. We have been independently making our own staircase patterns with the duplo and cubes in the provision too!

We have had a super week learning all about being healthy, eating and drinking healthily, the effect of exercise on our bodies and how to look after our teeth. Thank you for sending the children in with toothbrushes and toothpaste on Wednesday - we had a really good session following instructions to clean our teeth properly! We also had a visit from Mr Kulambi, a doctor, who talked to the children about how to stay safe and healthy. We showed the children how to use lots of his medical equipment to listen to their heartbeats, check their ears, measure their pulse etc. We have also done some super artwork around the story 'the dot' creating our own dots and experimenting with watercolours.

Next week we will be...

- Innovating the story 'Whatever Next'
- Reading and writing longer words in phonics
- Working on the composition of 5 - all the pairs of numbers that make 5 (number bonds)
- Learning about firefighters and fire engines
- Looking at Kandinsky's 'Squares with concentric circles' and choosing our own colour combinations to try.

Ways to help at home...

- **Read! Read! Read!** This is the biggest thing you can do to support your child's learning journey!
- Practise the new phase 3 sounds we have learnt so far - **ai**, **ee**, **igh**, **oa**, **oo**, **or** and **ar**, **ur**, **ow**, **oi**, **ear**, **air** and **er**.
- Practice recognising and writing the new tricky words **are**, **sure** and **pure**.
- Count up to 20 out loud.
- Practice using the prepositions in front, behind, next to, under, over etc with a teddy.

Requests and reminders:

- We will be celebrating **Chinese New Year with a special themed day on Thursday 8th February**. Can children please dress in Red or in a Chinese themed outfit on this day. We will be learning about how Chinese New Year is celebrated including doing some Chinese food tasting, Chinese crafts etc on this day.
- We will be holding an Art themed **parents stay and play session on Tuesday 6th February from 2pm** so if you would like to attend, please reserve this date in your diary!

Mrs Gwynn ☺