

The Downs Primary School and Nursery

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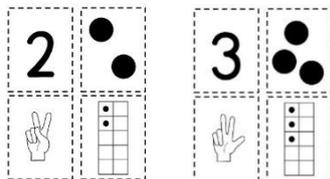
Mulberry and Holly Class Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers

This week we have....

In Maths We have been practising counting to five and representing these numbers in a variety of ways. For example:



Try these at home:

When you are out shopping, look at some birthday cards. What numbers can you see? Can you find cards with the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5? How old are you?

Draw 5 simple shapes on a piece of paper. Number the shapes 1 to 5. Place a toy onto the numbered shape and ask a friend or grown-up to tell you the number. Were they correct? Can they put the toy on a numbered shape for you to identify?

Ask a grown-up to write the numbers 1 to 5 on pieces of paper and hide them around the room or garden. Go on a hunt for all the numbers! Each time you find a number, tell a grown-up what number you have found. You could try using a timer too - can you find and name all the numbers before the timer runs out?

Letters and Sounds- Phonics This week we have been reviewing all the sounds and tricky words we know so far. We have been busy practising writing our letter sounds correctly and making words by segmenting and blending.

*“Blending and Segmenting are **key phonics skills**. Segmenting is the process of separating a word into its individual sounds. Think /c/ /a/ /t/. Blending is the process of pushing the sounds in words together, to read or hear the word.”*

We have been reading simple sentences as a class and have enjoyed spotting words we know and recognise in our books.

Over half term: Reading: over half term your child will come home with a reading book as well as their library book. The reading book will contain familiar sounds that your child has been practising and learning in school. Read this book together with your child and encourage them to sound out words and spot tricky words. You may still come across words and sounds that we have not learnt yet.



How to support:

- Encourage your child to use the pictures to help them sound out the word
- Read the book using 'my turn, your turn' where your child copies you after each sentence
- Encourage your child to point to known sounds or words throughout
- Talk about the book, asking questions to ensure understanding e.g. What happened in the story? What do you think will happen next? Etc.
- Read the book a number of times to promote understanding of what is being read and to see if words and sounds are further recognised and remembered

Games: play games around the sounds and tricky words that are known. Use the suggestions on the homework to get you started but feel free to make up your own games.

Remember your child's reading book is a book that your child can have a go at reading and their library book is a book which should be enjoyed and read to your child.

Teach your Monster to Read. *Teach your Monster to Read* is an award-winning series of games which helps children to master the key first stages of reading. It's been created by the Usborne Foundation, led by Peter Usborne (of Usborne Publishing).



We've been using it in class and it's free to play on a PC and laptop, or you can download the *Teach Your Monster to Read* app from the app store on phones and tablets.

To play on the website, visit teachyourmonstertoread.com and start playing in seconds.

We have given your child a password card then you can log in to your child's game using these details.



Teach Your Monster to Read is a series of online games which helps children learn to read. The games develop children's speed and accuracy of letter recognition by taking them on a fantastic adventure through magical worlds where they meet island kings and collect letters to win prizes. Children adopt and customise a monster, who they guide through the learning process.

Festivals This week we have been talking about Halloween and getting involved in some activities e.g. making spiders, going on spider hunts and playing circle games during our carpet sessions. Many of the children are excited about Halloween, but we have also discussed how to be safe whilst Trick or Treating. If you are celebrating Halloween or not, we hope you have a safe and wonderful half term.

Remember to post what you get up to on Tapestry so that your child can share with the class when they come back to school.

Kind Regards

The Reception Team

