

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

We have been very impressed with how quickly the children have settled into being at school for a full week although some are tired by 3 o'clock! Lunch-times are going well and the children who stay for school dinners are trying the food on offer. In Reception, we tell them to have a "sniff, a lick and a bite" if they are unsure of something. The dinner supervisors are very observant and will let me know if your child is not eating very much and I will pass that on to you.

We have all met Shelley the Giant African Land Snail and watched her exploring. Everyone will have a turn to spray the tank and cut the food to feed her. The snail doesn't bite or sting and we always wash our hands after touching a pet so if you are happy for your child to hold the snail one day please send the form back at the bottom of this letter, thank you.

We have started to learn the letter sounds. Some children are familiar with them already and some know the letter names. We will use the names but it is the sounds we will focus on as this is what we hear when sounding out to read or spell a word; e.g. c-a-t "cat" rather than saying see-ay-tee 'seeaytee'. Each week your child will bring home a sheet with up to 4 sounds on it. It will also have a picture to show you the action we use to help them. Please keep this in their book bag but practise them as often as possible. If your child finds it tricky just focus on 1 or 2 until he/she is certain of them before moving on.

Counter the kangaroo has been helping us with counting and making sure we don't count too fast or miss numbers out. Can your child show you how to line things up to count them by pointing carefully? Next week I will send home some numbers for your child to cut out to make cards with to practise recognising, ordering and writing numbers at home.

Your child will also bring home a weekend book every two weeks, on a Friday. Inside it will have a label suggesting what to draw and write about or your child can write about what they did at the weekend. Please encourage your child to do the drawing and writing. You are welcome to write in brackets what your child wanted to write. We will share weekend news on Mondays.

Three ideas to try at home.

- **PSHE: Practise putting your coat on by yourself. Do you know what to do if a sleeve is inside out? Can you fasten your coat too? We will be awarding stickers next month to children who can!**
- **Phonics: Which objects can you find in your house that begin with the letter s? Stick an 's' label on them or collect them together and take a photograph/draw a picture. (You could also do this for the letters a/t/p/i/n.)**
- **Numeracy: Clap slowly between 1-10 times and ask your child to count how many claps.**

Thank you for your kind support.

Mrs. Leighton and Mrs. Gale



Little boxes for Junk modelling

Please send in any small boxes for us to use in our DT area: toothpaste boxes, kitchen rolls, yoghurt pots, etc.

We love making models!
Thank you!

Reception Blue September 2017

CHILD'S NAME.....I am happy / not happy for my child to hold Shelley the snail

Signed..... Date.....

