

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have continued our work on life cycles and have discussed how tadpoles change to frogs. The children have enjoyed looking at their tadpoles at close hand and Foxes' tadpoles seem particularly advanced, having grown legs!

In Reception, the children have been extremely excited about all the making opportunities. **We are in desperate need of clean junk modelling materials; clean paper plates (for craft), kitchen rolls, small cardboard boxes etc. If you have any of the above please deliver them to your child's class teacher. All donations are gratefully received.**

As part of their home learning, we would like the children to visit a pond over half term. Please discuss the plants and wildlife that uses the pond, the children may like to draw a picture, take a photograph or write about what they have seen. This will help to prepare them for our work on water as we enter the second half of the summer term. There are ponds in Richmond Park, Nonsuch Park and Morden Hall Park which are all free to visit and easily accessible on public transport. More locally there is the wetland area in the Hamptons. We will also be sending home another 'Wow Moment' sheet for you to record your child's significant moments or achievements at home. Please continue to work with your children using the number cards sent home a few weeks ago. Many of the children need to consolidate recognising the larger numbers and practising at home will reinforce their learning in school.

During our 1:1 reading time we have noticed that lots of children are not having opportunity to read at home or it is not being written in their yellow home reading books when they do. We cannot stress enough how important it is to read with your children and also record this in their books. If you are unsure on how to support/ move your child on with their reading please do not hesitate to ask. Short bursts of reading every day for 5/ 10 minutes is much more effective than longer periods of time less regularly.

**Some tips:**

- children need to be reading fluently, model to your child reading without long pauses.
- encourage your children to blend cvc words (three letter words) in their heads not sounding every word out, this will help with the fluency of their reading.
- when reading longer words, support your child to break them up into smaller chunks which they can then blend.
- we encourage the children to read with intonation, thinking of our 'story teller' voices.
- encourage your child to look for special friend sounds (two or three letter sounds)- you were provided with a sound mat with these on at parents evening.
- if you are finding that your child is reluctant, we suggest sharing the reading i.e. you read a page then they read a page.
- it is so important that you put time aside to share, read and tell stories to your children, modelling good reading. This is a crucial element when learning to read.

We would like to wish everyone a happy and safe half term and congratulate the children for working so hard over the past few weeks.

Thank you for your continuing support.

The Reception team