

Friday 7th May 2021.

Dear Parents and Carers in Reception,

I hope you all enjoyed the long bank holiday weekend. The children were excited to tell Mrs. Wood and me all the lovely things you have been up to.

This week our learning has had an 'understanding of the world' focus. We have continued to find out all about bees, in fact, we have been busy bees learning about bees!

Do you know the answer to these questions?

- How many flowers does a bee need to visit to have a full stomach of nectar?
- How does a bee make honey?
- What type of flowers are bees mainly attracted to?
- What are the different stages of a bee life cycle?

These are some of the questions the children have been researching and trying to answer.

Together we have made a 'bee B n B' from a terracotta plant pot, and a 'bee café' to attract the bees to our outside area. Unfortunately, the weather has been so cold we haven't seen many bees yet!

Here are some of the YouTube videos we have found useful:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnfn0mT9uOg>

How to make a 'bee B n B'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfBE5AUG5tM>

How to make a 'bee café'.

The children have all had the opportunity to taste honey this week. We tasted Greek honey; it was a dark brown colour and these bees had been feeding on woodland and herb nectar. We also tasted organic Buckinghamshire honey, this was a light golden honey and a honeycomb variety, very pale with the honeycomb in the jar. The resounding favourite type of honey overall on the taste test was the honeycomb honey which really surprised me. The majority of children loved it:

'it's delicious'

'like sweetie sweets'

'I love it'

There were even requests for second tastings!

On Friday we are going to be using honey to make a favourite sweet treat, honey flapjacks. The children love cooking and especially eating the end product!

On Monday we had a class vote to decide which sort of shop we would like to set up and role play in the class and in the outside area. The children made suggestions: a shoe shop, a bike shop, Tesco, Lidl, a McDonalds, a Costa and a toy shop. The children voted and the most votes were cast for the toy shop inside, and a café outside.

It was lovely to see the children working as a team together to set up the shops. They started to write menus for the café independently and then I had to go and eat the delicious food on offer.



There was 'salad with fish, chips, frothy cappuccino with sugar and strawberry smoothie shake'. At one point I looked and there was even a live snail on my plate!

Phonics sounds previously learned in phonics:

s, a, t, p, l, n, m, d, g, o, c, k, ck, e, u, r, h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss, j, v, w, x, y, z, zz, qu
ay, ch, th, sh, ng, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, ure, er

This week in phonics:

Some children are working with Letters and Sounds Phase Four. They have been consolidating their knowledge of graphemes in reading and spelling CVCC, CCVC words. There are some vowel graphemes that the children need more practice in reading and writing so this week the children have been revisiting ai and ar and using these phonemes in words to write sentences. Other children have been revisiting the digraphs oa, ee and ng and writing sentences containing these phonemes. Keep practising building words at home with your sound fan, and keep revisiting the tricky words the children need to know by the end of Reception. Please keep reading daily at home with your child.

Tasting honey this week:



Next week:

We will be continuing our focus of understanding the world with a delivery of caterpillars that we are going to 'grow' into butterflies. We will be reading 'The Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle to complement this. Our Maths learning will focus on the items of food the caterpillar eats and recapping the days of the week.

Things to do at home:

- Watch the videos I have posted earlier about bees and their habitat.
- Look out for bees in your garden, patio or balcony.
- Make a bee café to attract bees to your outside area.
- Keep encouraging your child independently at home.

Appeal for plants and garden equipment:

Thank you for your offers of plant, pots and seeds for the outside area. They are greatly appreciated.

Have a great weekend,

Best wishes,

Mrs Bradford and Mrs Wood.