



*'Through God's love, we are the rich soil
where roots grow and seeds flourish.'*
Luke 8:4-15



KEY STAGE NEWS

Early Years

World Nursery Rhyme Week is fast approaching, and we are delighted to confirm we will be taking part. The initiative, launched in 2013, promotes the importance of nursery rhymes in early childhood development and education with a particular focus on how nursery rhymes boost early language and literacy skills. Singing nursery rhymes is a wonderful activity you can also enjoy doing together at home. You can access all of the free resources at home by registering at www.worldnurseryrhymeweek.com.

We have a number of activities planned throughout the week including Nursery Rhyme themed Stay and Play sessions in Nursery and Reception. These sessions will run on Wednesday 13th November after school between 3:30 and 4:30 for Nursery, Thursday 14th November 2-3 for Mr Innes' Reception Class and Friday 15th November 2-3 for Mr Osmond's Reception Class. Please note that children must be accompanied to these extra sessions by an adult. To allow us to prepare enough resources for each session, please book via [this link](#).

We have a strong focus on learning rhymes and poems across EYFS and so this year we are putting together a book of Nursery Rhymes and poems for each child in Nursery to bring home and share with you. If you could send the book back into school every fortnight, we will add the latest poems and rhymes to the book so that by the end of the year, your child will have a copy of all our core rhymes and poems to keep. We will remind you when books need to come back into school via Evidence Me. Please encourage your child to look after the book and share it with them as often as you can.

Reception children have been making amazing progress in their phonics sessions are already becoming confident with Unit 3 of Sounds Write. They will start to bring a decodable reading book home from the end of next week. Please make time to read with your child as often as you can and sign their reading diary, which will come home with their reading book. Books will be changed weekly and your child will bring home a book they have already shared with an adult in school, so they are familiar with it. Reading books and diaries need to be in school every day, so please ensure your child brings their book bag to school daily so they are ready to read. If you would like to know more about supporting your child's reading and writing you might like to sign up for the free Sounds Write short course for parents [here](#).

Key Stage 1

This week Year 1 have been shown how to use Numbots in school and given access to use it at home. Numbots is a younger version of TT Rockstars. Year 1 children should have come home with a letter explaining how to access Numbots, including a username and password, earlier this week.



Numbots is an online program that allows children to practise their maths skills at home through a variety of really fun maths games. As they answer questions they win coins to upgrade their Numbot with new parts and accessories. Numbots can be accessed via a computer or an app on a phone or tablet.

We believe using Numbots at home is a really fantastic way to support your child's learning and develop their mathematical fluency. We hope you will enjoy using it!

Key Stage 2

Our Year 4 & 5 children had great fun this week working with Captain Chemistry. Georgia in Year 4 writes:

'We had a fun time working with Captain Chemistry as part of our work on 'Animals Including Humans'. We began by examining a range of different animal skulls and looking at their teeth to identify how they would eat their prey. Some of the canines were very sharp! We looked at skulls of a rabbit, lion, lynx, ram, fox and deer and learned lots of interesting facts. Did you know that the teeth of a herbivore are worn down by 3mm each year as they only eat grass?'

The second activity saw us looking at the digestive system, we made a fully working model from the moment the food enters our body until it comes out the other end. We all agreed it was really interesting and we learned so much but it was also disgusting at the same time! It takes 24-36 hours for the food we eat to pass through our bodies. We can't wait to work with Captain Chemistry again later in the year.'



Y5 had Captain Chemistry working with them as part of their Science focus of Earth and Space. They started their session by exploring the Solar System; delving deeper into space by looking at the Sun and the planets. We were amazed when we saw the relationship between planet size and then the distances from the Sun. Following that we built homemade rockets and fired them using pneumatic power.

