

Friday 9th January 2025

Dear Parents & Carers

Re: Orchard Learning for Spring 1 term.

I hope you all had a lovely break during the holidays. I know many of you want to know what we are learning about in school so that you can mirror the learning at home, so I just wanted to give you a little update and a resource that you can use at home.

From January we are starting to follow the Little Wandle Foundation/SEND programs for phonics. We are initially starting with "Rhyme Time" and "Tuning Into Sounds" which are fun activities for pupils at the earlier stages of language development.

Over the course of this month, Miss Mapp, our literacy lead, will be working with me to carry out baseline assessments of the pupils and work out some groupings for the children so we can split them into smaller focus groups and tailor lessons more appropriately to meet their needs.

"Rhyme Time" is where we learn a nursery rhyme with actions. We then repeat the song slowly leaving a gap at the end of each line to see if the pupils can fill in the gap with the correct word. Children who are verbal have really enjoyed this. For pupils who are pre-verbal, I have attached a fringe board so that they can point to the correct word/symbol. It would be great if you can support your children with the song that we have been learning in school that week.

Week 1 & 2 - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Once I caught a fish alive

Week 3 & 4 - A sailor went to sea

Week 5 & 6 - Baa baa black sheep

"Tuning Into Sounds" is a range of activities and games focusing on the initial sounds of words. At the moment we are doing an activity called "Name Play" that looks at alliterative phrases using their children's names. Such as "Alex's angry ant" or "Morgan's magic moustache". For short sounds, we bounce on the letter, for example A-A-Alex, A for Alex, Alex's angry ant. For long sounds, we stretch them out, for example Mmmmmmmmmorgan, M for Morgan, Morgan's magic moustache. Next week I will send home a copy of your child's phrase and a picture to go with it.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Kind regards

Mr Fernando-Thorne

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