



Foundation Stage News

St Francis Class



Week Beginning: 25.3.24

We have loved our topic of Fantastic Beasts! We have enjoyed our final few weeks of the topic learning all about minibeasts.

We have been very lucky to have our own caterpillars in the classroom and we have carefully watched them change and grow. We are hopeful to see them turn into butterflies before the Easter holiday arrives.

Our trip to Arundel Wetland Centre last week was amazing! We enjoyed seeing and finding out about nature in such a beautiful environment. Our particular highlights were pond dipping and the boat trip. The children were so well behaved and eager to learn. We were very proud of them. Well done St Francis' class!

This half term we are reviewing all of the letter sounds that we have learnt so far.

We are continuing to learn that two letters that make one sound are called 'digraphs'. We are also learning that three letters that make one sound are called 'trigraphs'.

We are working on writing the letters correctly and using them in our reading and writing with growing independence.

Please use this link to watch a video clip which may help you with how to 'say the sounds' if you are unsure:

[Phase 2 Pronunciation on Vimeo](#)
[Phase 3 Pronunciation \(vimeo.com\)](#)

Reading at home:

Please take time each week for your child to read to you. We cannot stress enough the impact that this makes on your child's success as a reader. This in turn makes a direct impact on their success in their education. Research from the 'National Literacy Trust' states: **"...that young people who read outside class were 13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age".**

Top tips for successful reading at home:

- Limit distractions i.e. a quiet space.
- Find a time which is good for you and your child where you have time to listen.
- Encourage them to use the picture on the front cover to talk about the book.
- Can they sound out and blend the letter sounds to read the words? Can they spot any 'Harder to Read and Spell' words as they read?
- Praise your child for having a go, make sure they realise how much you love to hear them read.

Also, try to find time to read your child a bedtime story. The most important part of reading is enjoyment, developing a love of books will turn them into successful readers with a growing vocabulary. Please write a comment in your child's 'Reading Record' book when they have read with you. This helps us to know that their books are ready to change and also gives us an understanding of how they are getting on reading at home with you.

Thank you.

Here is a reminder of how we write our letters in school. Some letters stay on the grass, some go up into the sky and some go down into the mud.

CHALLENGE - Can they have a go at writing our phonics sounds?

