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Dear Reception Families,

It was another busy week full of lots of wonderful learning! Thank you to those who were able to join us for our maths stay, play and learn sessions. The children loved having a visit from a very kind parent visitor as part of our people who help us topic. She shared all about being a nurse and some of the ways she helps people. The children were very excited to bandage the class bears! We were really impressed with the thoughtful questions the children asked!

A final call for parent visitors! Do we have any builders, doctors or shop assistants amongst our parents? The children gain so much from these real life experiences and would love to hear about any jobs you do that help people! If you are able to come in to speak to the children, please speak to your child's class teacher!

Play fighting

At Saxon, the children are not allowed to play fight. This is because it is challenging for the children to differentiate what is play and what is not. This can lead to children being hurt. If children are observed to be play fighting, reminders will be given to them. This is done through a positive interaction between adult and child, reinforcing the expected behaviour. This interaction provides the opportunity for a pupil to start making the right choices. Children who need additional reminders to correct their behaviour will need to have a further conversation or reflection time in a buddy class, with a phase leader or with the Inclusion Manager, Deputy Head or Headteacher. Below you can find a link to our behaviour management policy.

We have had whole class circle times to remind the children that they are not allowed to playfight and the reasons why. However, there are still occasions where playfighting is happening. Please can we ask for your support with this matter and ask that you please reiterate this message to your child at home.

<https://www.saxonprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Behaviour+Management&pid=21>

Learning

This week we will learn about medical helpers, such as dentists and midwives. We are very excited that Mrs Morley's sister is going to visit us to share about the job of a midwife.

Communication, Language & Literacy:

We will read the story *Maisy goes to the Dentist* by Lucy Cousins.

We will learn some new vocabulary; dentist, decay, hygienic, tooth fairy, wobbly, rinse and gargle. Can your child show you the actions we have learnt and explain the meaning?

We will draw and write about the character and setting.

We will draw and write about how to brush our teeth.

We will draw and label what you need to look after a baby.

We will

continue to

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write phrases and sentences using the sounds and tricky words we have learnt.

Here are some key phrases and sentence starters that are decodable and use learnt tricky words if you want to practice at home:

- I can see...
- It is a...
- Look, I can see the...
- The _____ is _____

Phonics

We will practice reading longer words using the 'chunking method'. This is where the word is broken into syllables or smaller chunks such as **s-u-n / s-e-t** or **l-a-p / t-o-p**. Children sound out each chunk individually and then the individual chunks are blended together to read the whole word. Below are some words you could practice together:

chicken

lemon

pocket

velvet

bedroom

We will continue to practice reading the tricky words and try to use them within our writing. Please find below a list of the tricky words that the children need to be able to read.

Maths:

This week in maths, we will be learning about pairs, odd and even numbers and doubles up to 8. We will learn that a pair is two. We will arrange quantities into pairs and notice that some quantities will have an odd one left over with no partner. We will learn that doubling means 'twice as many'. We will make our own doubles biscuit!

One of our goals for the end of Reception, is for the children to be able to automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts). Number bonds are pairs of numbers which add up to a certain number. You can help your child to grasp this concept using everyday objects like toys, fingers or fruit, encouraging them to find "how many more" are needed to make 5.

Fun, simple activities for home:

- **Finger fun:** Show a number of fingers (e.g., 3) and ask your child how many more are needed to make 5 (2).
- **Toy Pairings:** Use 5 Lego bricks or toys, separating them into two piles to show different combinations.
- **Hidden Object Game:** Place 5 small items (like beads or coins) under a cup, take some away, and ask how many are hidden.

Other Areas of Learning:

- **UW (Understanding the World)** – we will learn about medical helpers such as a dentist and midwife. We will talk about our own experiences of visiting the dentist and a midwife will visit us! We will think about what you need to look after a baby.

- **PSED (Personal, social and emotional development)** – we will learn that we can use kind words to encourage people.

- **EAD (Expressive arts and design)** – We will paint with toothbrushes. We will create a special envelope or box for when our tooth has fallen out!

- **PD (Physical development)** - we will continue to practice hopping, skipping and jumping.

Notices/reminders:

- This week, we will think about what you need to look after a baby. To stimulate discussion about this, we would like to have a look at photographs of the children, when they were a baby! We would be very grateful if you could share a photo via Tapestry or bring a hard copy in (with their name on). Thank you!
- **Date for your diary! We are having a People Who Help Us dress-up day on Wednesday 11th February.** Your child can come to school dressed up as someone who helps in the community, for example a doctor, nurse, vet, firefighter, police officer, baker etc. Please ask if you have any questions.
- **We are very excited that after half term, our Reception outdoor area will be getting a revamp! We will need to clear the area in preparation for this. If you are able to help us with this after school on Thursday 12th February please let your child's class teacher know. We really appreciate your support with this, thank you.**

Kind Regards,

Mrs Morley, Mrs Duxon and Mrs Lewis

Phase 3 tricky word	Tricky part(s)	Why is it tricky?
was	a	The 'a' makes the sound o . Learning so far: For 'a', your child has learned the sound a as in 'cat'.
you	ou	Your child has not yet learned the different sounds made by the digraph 'ou'. Here, it makes the sound oo (as in 'food').
they	ey	Your child has not yet learned the different sounds made by the digraph 'ey'. Here, it makes the sound ai .
my by	y	The 'y' makes the sound igh . Learning so far: For 'y', your child has learned the sound y as in 'yap'.
all	a	The 'a' makes the sound or . Learning so far: For 'a', your child has learned the sound a as in 'cat'.
are	whole word	This is a rare spelling of the sound ar .
sure	whole word	The 's' makes the sound sh . The 'ure' makes two sounds (yoo plus the schwa sound). <i>These are rare spellings for these sounds.</i>
pure	ure	The 'ure' makes two sounds (yoo plus the schwa sound). <i>This is a rare spelling for these sounds.</i>

Phase 2 tricky word	Tricky part(s)	Why is it tricky?
l	i	The 'i' makes the sound igh . Learning so far: For 'i', your child has learned the sound i as in 'pin'.
the	e	It is rare for 'e' to make the schwa sound at the end of a word.
put* pull full push	u	The 'u' makes the sound oo (as in 'book'). Learning so far: For 'u', your child has learned the sound u as in 'cup'.
and	nd	Your child has not yet learned how to blend together adjacent consonants.
her	er	Your child has not yet learned the digraph 'er'. Note: They will learn this digraph later in the Spring term.
go no	o	The 'o' makes the sound oa . Learning so far: For 'o', your child has learned the sound o as in 'dog'.
to into	o	The 'o' makes the sound oo (as in 'food') or the schwa sound, depending on context. Learning so far: For 'o', your child has learned the sound o as in 'dog'.
she he we me be	e	The 'e' makes the sound ee . Learning so far: For 'e', your child has learned the sound e as in 'egg'.
of	f	The 'f' makes the sound v . <i>This is a rare spelling for this sound.</i>



RECEPTION SNACKS

*If your child brings a snack for break time at Saxon Primary School, please choose from the approved list: **fresh fruit or vegetables, dried fruit, plain rice cakes, breadsticks, plain crackers, plain pitta/wrap (no filling), yoghurt tube or a handful of sugar-free cereal.** Please make sure fruits, such as grapes, are sliced in half **vertically** (or ideally quartered.)*

Please avoid snacks such as fruit winders, crisps, pastries and other high sugar/salt snacks. If the children do bring something in that is not a healthy snack, we will offer a piece of school provided fruit and send the snack home with the children.

Many thanks for helping us keep snack time healthy!

