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Dear Reception Families,

Last week, the children enjoyed listening to the story *The Invisible String* by Patrice Karst, a lovely read that explains how people who love each other are connected by an invisible string made of love. The children loved exploring the Little City on Wednesday, hopefully your child has told you all about their adventures there!

### **Reading at home**

Here is a link to the Little Wandle website, with a video showing how you can use wordless books with your child at home; <https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/#tabnametabBooksComingHome>. Please continue to return books every Wednesday.

### **Learning**

Please continue to practice name-writing at home (with a capital letter at the beginning **only** please). Children can practice writing their name anywhere; it does not always have to be on paper! Try writing in soap on the side of the bath, steamed up windows, in a tray of sand or chalk on the ground, on big paper using paint. We would love for all children to be able to write their name by the end of the Autumn term.

### **Our theme for this term is 'All About Me'**

Our topics are highly influenced by the children's interests therefore activities may change from those planned.

### **Communication, language and literacy**

This week will read the story *The Colour Monster* and use this to discuss feelings and emotions. We will teach the children that **all** emotions are valid; we aim to create an awareness and understanding of these emotions and share some strategies to help with the 'bigger', more uncomfortable emotions.

We will learn some new vocabulary and Makaton signs including; happy, scared, confused, sad, calm, angry.

We will draw different versions of the Colour Monster, describe the setting and have a go at writing initial sounds.

### **Phonics**

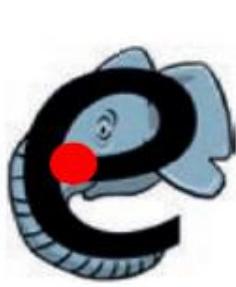
See below for this week's phonics sounds. Here you can also see how we teach the children to form these letters. Have a go at doing this with your child; with your magic finger in the air, on your palm or on each other's backs, using play-dough or chalking on the ground.

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National Nurturing  
School Award  
2026





around the elephant's eye  
and curl down his trunk



down and around the  
umbrella and back to the  
ground



from the cloud to the  
ground and over the  
rainbow

We will also be learning to recognise our first **digraph** (2 letters than make 1 sound);

ck sock



**For c:** Curl round the  
heel of the sock.

**For k:** Down the sock,  
up and across, back and  
down to the corner.

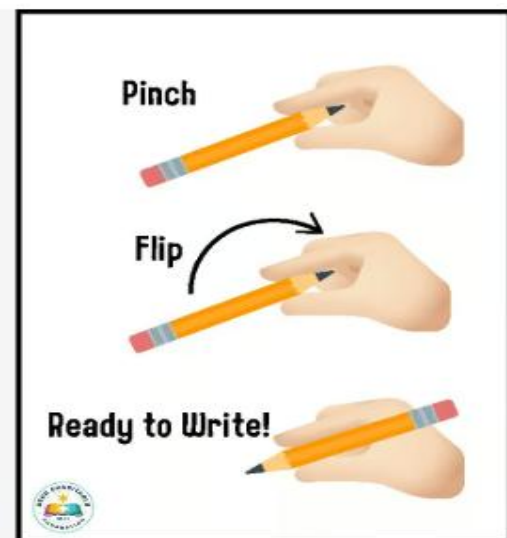
**Catchphrase:** ck  
Rock that sock!

We will also learn to recognise the tricky word "I" and reinforce last week's tricky word, "is".

Below is a link to a video that explains what a tricky word is how we teach them;  
<https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/#tabnametabHowWeTeach>

## Pencil Grip

Over the year we will encourage the children to use the "pinch, pinch flip" method to pick up and hold their pencil. This a simple technique used in the Little Wandle handwriting program to help children quickly and easily achieve a correct, functional tripod pencil grip.



## Maths

This week the children will engage with activities that draw attention to the purpose of counting, to find out 'how many' objects there are. The children will also explore how all sorts of things can be counted, including sounds. Singing counting rhymes will give them opportunities to hear, join in with and develop their knowledge of the counting sequence. Children could continue to practice this 'careful counting' at home by counting objects such as pasta pieces, Lego blocks or pens, ensuring they clearly say each number while touching the object before moving onto the next. Encouraging children to line the objects in a row also helps with accurate counting.

## Physical development

In our PE lesson we will focus on balancing, moving at different levels and moving around the room in different ways. We are also working on listening, following instructions and working in pairs.

## Personal, social and emotional development:

This week, we will continue to reinforce the Zones of Regulation, linked to our text *The Colour Monster*, and discuss some strategies for regulating ourselves when we are feeling sad, upset or frustrated.

# The ZONES of Regulation

|                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |
| <b>Blue Zone</b><br>Sad<br>Bored<br>Tired<br>Sick                                 | <b>Green Zone</b><br>Happy<br>Focused<br>Calm<br>Proud                            | <b>Yellow Zone</b><br>Worried<br>Frustrated<br>Silly<br>Excited                    | <b>Red Zone</b><br>overjoyed/Elated<br>Panicked<br>Angry<br>Terrified               |

## Expressive Arts and Design:

We will create counting wands to help us with our careful counting! We will also create colour monster collages using a range of different materials.

## Notices and reminders:

-We are missing some of our toys and resources. Please check your child's pockets and book bag to see if any have made their way home and return to your child's teacher if so. Thank you.

-We are running very low on our stock of spare clothes. Please return any spare items of clothing your child has worn home and please make sure there are some spare clothes in their bag. Sometimes children have toileting accidents but they can also get wet at the water table so some dry clothes would be really handy. If you have any spare items to donate we would be very grateful – we are low on pants, socks, school dresses, white tshirts and trousers.

- Please label all coats, jumpers (including PE jumpers/hoodies), cardigans, and water bottles. These items go missing regularly and having a name clearly labelled avoids time taken looking for them. Thank you.

-If you would like to put a key ring on your child's book bag, please ensure it is only **one**, thank you.

**Snacks**

Every day, there is free fruit or vegetables available for the children to have during the morning. We are happy for you to send a snack in for your child but please ensure it is one of the snacks from the list below. Please include only **1 snack**, we want to ensure the children each their lunch! Please ensure grapes, cherry tomatoes and olives are sliced into halves or ideally quarters.

- Fresh fruit
- Fresh vegetables
- Dried fruit
- Plain rice cakes
- Bread sticks
- Yoghurt tube
- Plain crackers
- Pitta bread or wraps (with no filling)
- Crackers
- A handful of sugar-free cereal

Kind regards,

Mrs Duxon, Mrs Lewis and Mrs Morley