

Topaz News

Dear All,

It may have been a short week but it has been very busy in Topaz. A special package arrived with some caterpillars inside. We are going to use our curiosity to see how long it will take for them to change. We now have a jungle role play in our classroom and we have been finding out about what it might be like by looking at the jungle pictures by Henri Rousseau. We will be taking torches into the dark spaces to look for interesting creatures, then writing about them in our explorer's notebooks. We are learning lots of new facts about minibeasts. This week we found out that some of them have skeletons on the outside and all of them seem to have an even number of legs. Painting and drawing them has given us lots of opportunity to link what we know about double numbers too! Our stem sentence for maths this week is '... is made of ... and ...; double ... is ...' For example 6 is made of 3 and 3; double 3 is 6. You can help by practising these up to double 6.



Reading and phonics



To save the children needing to carry quite so much to school on a Friday, we will change books around on a Thursday. They read as part of phonics and other learning every day, but on Thursdays I look at how they are getting on with their reading books anyway.

If you haven't got the 5 times a week habit for reading yet, it makes a massive difference to their fluency and confidence.

To encourage everyone to get into the habit of reading the same book through the week, certificates will be given out each week for 5 times which will be counted each Thursday. There will be a medal to work towards when they have 7 weeks of 5 times a week. In previous years we have found that this then builds into a good habit going forward through the school.

You have probably found the purple book in the bookbag. This has learning that supports our phonic learning for the week. I'm sure the children love to show off their sentence reading at home.

Next week

Finally the time has come for us to have our singing lessons with the Beat Bus. This will start on Monday morning. (It isn't on a bus) A lady from South Glos music service will come and teach us some songs. We hope to share them with you later in the year.

On Friday we have a dressing up event run by the FoAHS.

Kind regards, *Sally Windmill*

