



Topaz News

Dear All,

It has been lovely to meet you this week and share what an amazing job the children are doing. I hope that we can invite you in the share learning journals next term. If not, we will make a plan so that you can share these.

This week there has been a bit of a spooky feeling to the classroom. I have added some giant webs and a very big spider. There has been a focus on physical skills so we have been carefully spooning water beads into small containers, hammering into pumpkins, threading numbers, saving some spiders from some sticky slime, pegging prickles onto hedgehog and we tried out our first session of squiggle and wiggle. This started with scarves in both hands, then we moved to paper and crayons in both hands. All of these will help us develop strong arms and fingers.



We love stories and have shared lots of pumpkin and witch stories this week. We even had a go at drawing the witch from Room on a Broom and acted out the story. At home drawing is an excellent way to develop fine motor control. If your child isn't keen on pens or pencils, chalks are great outside.

Phonics and numbers

Phonics

I can see that lots of you have been practising sounds and playing the 'What is in the Box?' game at home. It will make a huge difference going forward so try to keep up with the sounds coming home. For those of you who have not found the videos yet, they are within the post on evidence me with the phonics picture on the left. There is a video to explain the sounds actions and pronunciation and another

with a game.

We are part of a number research project this year run by the Boolean maths hub. This encourages a deep understanding of each number as well as counting in order and recognition. I can already see that the children are gaining lots from this. At home you can use the number fan with numbers to 10. Ask your child to show you the right number of fingers for the number. When they can do this go back and ask them to show you a number in different ways. For example, 4 can be 4 fingers on one hand, 3 on one and 1 on the other or 2 on each.

Over half term

Have a wonderful time and rest! Please send some photos through to Evidence Me showing some of the things you do during the week. I will use these to help the children tell us about their week when we come back after our week off.

Warm regards, *Sally Windmill*

