

Topaz News

Dear All,

It has been another busy week in Topaz class. It was internet safety day on Tuesday and we caught up with the story of Smartie the Penguin. If your child uses a tablet or any other device that connects with the internet, it is well worth looking at this story together. The virtual world offers wonderful opportunities but you need to start those conversations about how to stay safe when online.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7vZF-8bTFI>



We have also been exploring our emotions using the story of 'The Colour Monster' to help us. This has helped us to think about the emotions sadness, anger, calm, angry and happiness and develop words to talk about other emotions in between. We have talked about everyone having of different feelings and all of them are OK but we need to know how to help ourselves get back to feeling calm to help our brains be able to think. We will continue to explore this next week. One of the changes to the EYFS curriculum has recognised the importance of self-regulation and it is now one of the early learning goals. At home label emotions as you see them and discuss ways to calm when those more uncomfortable emotions come along.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68Ta6crRe4Y>

We have also been making space pictures and lots of models. We talked about how to use short pieces of tape and even how to make a flange join.



Phonics and Reading

This week we have continued working on our sounds and handwriting. Fluent reading is considered to be at the pace of talking so we need to know the sounds really well to be able to use them that fast. I can see from my individual reading that those using the same book each day are developing confidence and fluency by midweek. This gives them a real confidence boost which is why there has been this shift in thinking around reading.

If you haven't tried this yet, give it a go. Work with the book every day. You can pick out words, model how to read words or sentences with expression and by the end of the week, they will be reading that book like a pro and feeling great about it.

As we are trying to get this working for us, I haven't put lots of other books on Bug Club because it really is about becoming an expert in that book for the week.

However, don't forget to revisit sound keyrings and keywords. Without instant recall of sounds, reading fluently isn't possible.

Next week

Please bring wellies and waterproofs on Wednesday for the afternoon session. I have a few spares but children do like to wear their own.

Sally Windmill

