

## Foundation

This week our focus has learning about Winter (for which we were amused, as always, that the temperature rose this week!). The children in school went for a winter walk around the site, where they enjoyed noticing the bare trees. We very much enjoyed seeing photos of your walks, as well as the filled in tick sheets! We also loved the 'painting with scissors' pictures the children completed – from snails to robots to Mrs Bates – we are sure Matisse would be proud of the work. We hope you found the individual reading session useful and are looking forward to your time next week (please note times and days may change, the timetables on the VLE for each class will be updated accordingly). I know Mrs Robson and Mrs O'Hanlon really enjoyed catching up with the children!

This week in Maths, the children have been thinking about one more/less using numbers to 15, as well as splitting counters into 2 equal and non-equal groups.

During last Lock Down, one of the few benefits was that the children's independence grew. When you are working with your children, this is something you can help develop as home is an ideal place to practise becoming independent. Start by looking to see what your child can already do, and build on this. If your child can pull up a zip, maybe see if they can have a go at starting off the zip. Working alongside your child is often helpful so that they can learn skills by watching you. This does not have to be a formal lesson, as children often learn best by simply enjoying being with you and chatting. The kitchen can be a good place for this, as your child might want to help you wash and cut a few vegetables. Let them make mistakes because they learn the most from those trial and error moments. Resist doing what your child is able to do for themselves, because it is easier or quicker to do it for them. With regards to our lessons, encourage your child to join with the teaching and answer questions on their own. We merely facilitate the learning! Please don't feel you need to give them the answer. You could encourage your child to use 'reciprocal teaching'. After they have taken part in our live teaching, ask them to explain the lesson to you. Later, when they have completed the task you might ask them to assess their learning – what colour star stamp would they give themselves (green for I've got it, yellow for I need a little more practise and red for I have made a start). You might also like to praise your children when they show one of our learning habits, especially those of participation, perseverance, independence and resilience, commenting on what they did that showed the habit and rewarding them with a dot on their ladder.

We are also very conscious that the children are having busy days online. Please be aware that afternoon story times and the additional Thursday Music lesson are optional.

As always, please contact your child's teacher with any feedback or questions.

Next week we are thinking about the concept of 'belonging' by considering what it means to be a good friend. We are also sorting materials in to waterproof and non-waterproof, and making music!

Best wishes,  
The Foundation Team