Foundation Stage Newsletter: Autumn Term 2

Dear Parents,

We hope you have all had a fantastic half term break and are ready for a fun and very busy half term!

Our topic is: Let's Celebrate

During this topic we will be learning about celebrations and festivals including bonfire night, national nursery rhyme week, Diwali, Birthdays and Christmas.

Birthday Party

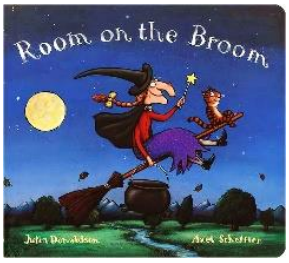
We will be reading the book 'You Must Bring a Hat' during our week focusing on the celebration of birthdays. To make this week extra special we will be having a birthday party at school on **Wednesday 25th November**. We would like to invite the children to wear party clothes to school on this day and bring in a small party snack in a named container (e.g. a cupcake/some biscuits/fruit – no nuts please).

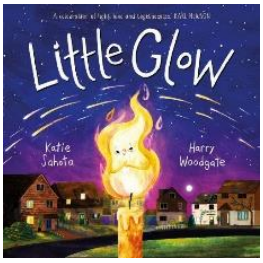
Christmas Crafting

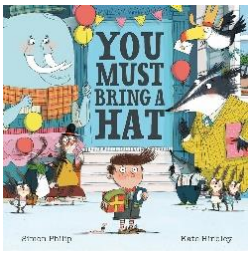
We are planning a festive craft afternoon for parents to attend with their child on **Wednesday 9th December from 2-3pm**. Further information will be sent out nearer the time once the school elves have got everything organised!

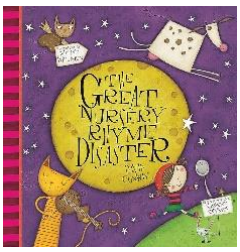
Drawing Club

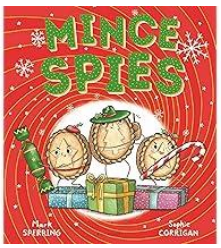
The children have thoroughly enjoyed our Drawing Club sessions every day and it has been wonderful to see them so excited to have a go at the daily challenges and the amazing progress they have already made with their drawing and mark making skills. We will continue to focus on a new story or animation every week and introduce new vocabulary with exciting actions to help the children remember the words. The children will then be set challenges to draw pictures to go with the story and add passcodes linking to phonics and maths concepts to make their drawings come to life. The passcode challenges are aimed at each individual child's cusp of confidence e.g. 2D shapes, numbers, dice with spots, name writing, phonics sounds and tricky words. Here are the stories we will be focusing on this half term:



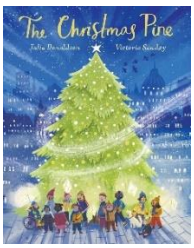






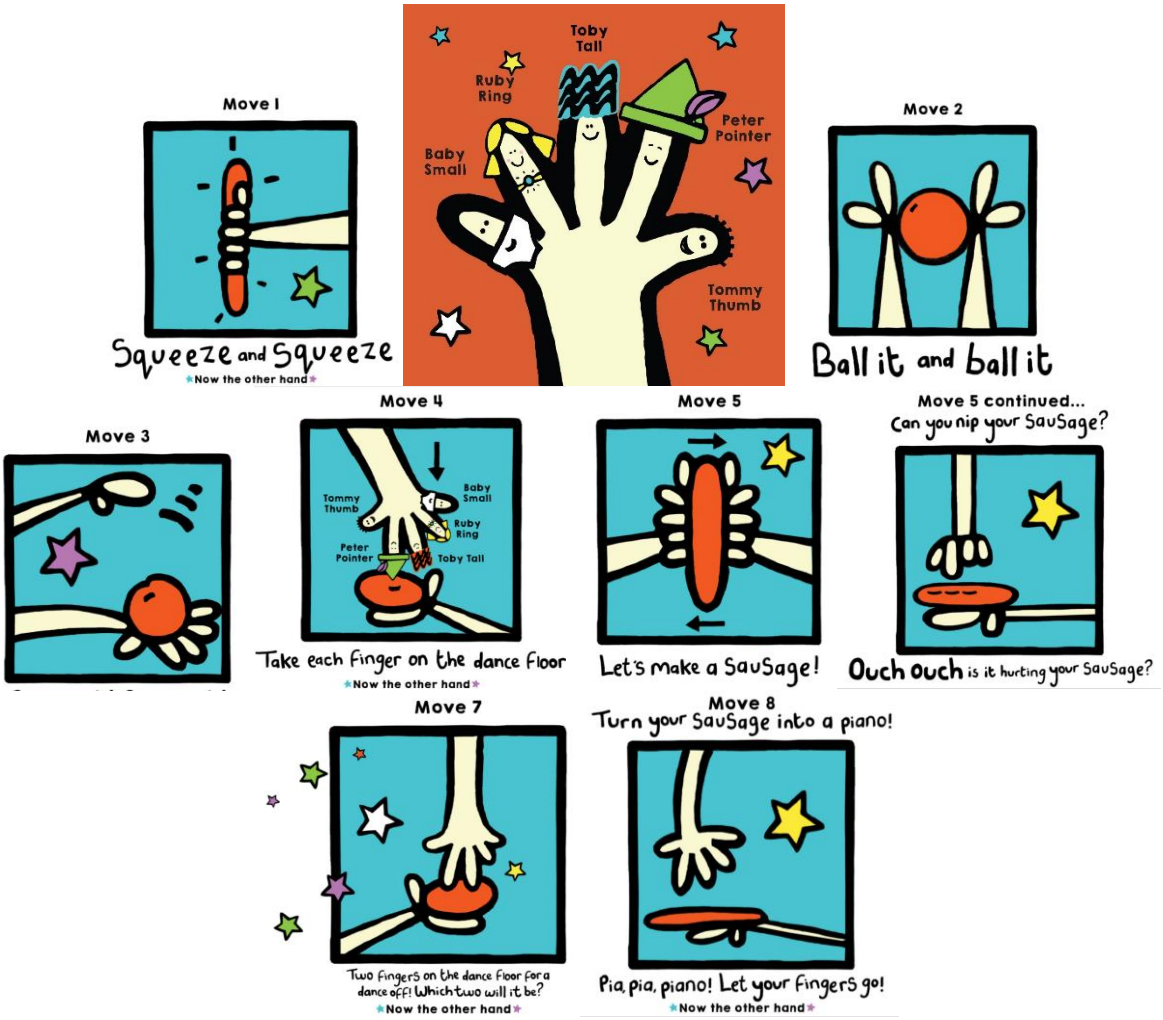






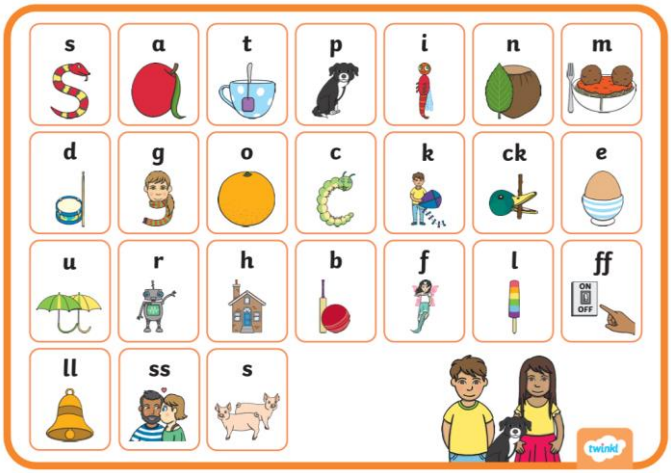
Dough Disco

The children have loved taking part in our daily Dough Disco sessions and have 'wowed' us with their dance moves! Here are some of the moves that we have been practising at school:



Reading and Phonics

We hope you have enjoyed sharing the wordless books with your children, focusing on storytelling and reading comprehension. Once children have started to blend words with increasing fluency at school we will then begin sending books home with Level 2 phonic sounds in:



Please listen to your child read each book twice and date on the reading log. We will change children's reading books on a Tuesday and Friday if the book has been read at home twice. If you feel that you would like to keep the book for a little longer please just put a note in the reading record. We will also be listening to your child read their book in school and during phonics sessions.

Mathematical Development

At Downsway Primary School we love using Numicon to help us learn about numbers. Here are some examples of practical activities that can be done at home. Each activity will help you and your child become more familiar with the Numicon pieces and provide opportunities to develop early mathematical conversations.

Finger printing patterns .





A set of Numicon 1-10 can be bought on Amazon if you would like some at home.

Using the Numicon pieces to print with.



Can you lay out the Numicon pieces in order to create a staircase?



Ask your child to cover their eyes, remove one piece, can they tell you which piece is missing?



FISHING IN THE BATH

- Numicon pieces are great to use in water, if you have a net set them off finding pieces in the bath.
- Even more fun if the bath has bubbles, can you feel around and find a Numicon piece with 3 holes?
- Find 2 Numicon pieces, which has more holes?

How many pennies would cover the holes of the Numicon piece?



Can you lay out your pennies in the Numicon pattern?



- Children's early experiences at home have a huge impact on their later achievement in maths.
- Numicon is a multi sensory approach using apparatus to focus on imagery, action and conversation.
- Numicon is designed to give children the understanding of number ideas and number relationships that are essential for success in maths.

Pushing Numicon pieces into play dough to create pattern.



Which Numicon piece made this pattern?



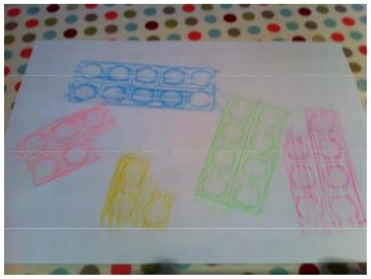
How many bumps are there?



Which 2 pieces could cover the pattern?



Hide a piece of Numicon under a piece of paper, ask your child to make a rubbing of it with a crayon, which piece is hidden under the paper?



Make a rubbing using tin foil, which piece is under the tin foil?



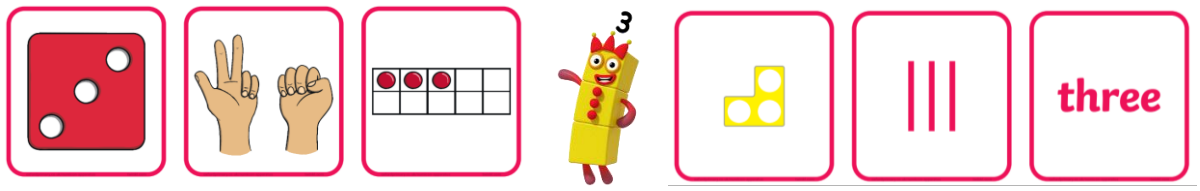
Match the number thrown to Numicon piece.



How many altogether?



Children will continue to develop their subitising (when you are able to look at a group of objects and realise how many there are without counting) and counting skills through lots of fun activities. We have also started to introduce a 'Number of the Week' session where we learn about how to represent a number in different ways to support their understanding of what each number represents. We will focus on numbers 1-20. Here is an example:



dice fingers tens frame Numberblock Numicon tally marks word

Seesaw: Wow Moments

Thank you for sharing your child's achievements (Wow Moments) on SeeSaw. The children have really enjoyed talking about these experiences with their friends and adults in school. Please continue to upload any achievements or experiences from home e.g. learning to ride a bike, taking part in an activity outside of school, creative activities and events with family and friends.

Things to remember

- Children are allowed to wear home clothes on the Friday after their birthday.
- Please bring your child's book bag into school every day with their reading book/reading log sheet.

- If you are providing a packed lunch for your child please remember that nuts and nut products are not allowed in school.
- Named water bottles should be brought into school every day filled with water (so squash please).

We are really looking forward to another fun and exciting term in Foundation Stage. Finally, if you have any questions or wish to talk to us about any concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to us at the beginning or end of the school day.

Many thanks for your support,
Mrs Clarke, Mrs Tipper, Miss Green, Mrs Giles, Mrs Cox and Mrs Saunders

Foundation Stage Timetable: Autumn Term 2					
	Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
8.45 – 9.00	**Self-register and Carpet Challenge**				
9.00-9.10	**Dough Disco**				
9.10-9.30	**Drawing Club Input**	**Maths Input**	**Drawing Club Input**	**Maths Input**	**Maths Input**
9.35 – 10:15	Exploring Time Drawing Club Activity	Exploring Time Maths Activity	Exploring Time Drawing Club Activity	Exploring Time Maths Activity	Exploring Time Reading Focus
10.15-10.30	**Snack Time (whole class on the carpet)**				
10.30 – 11.20	Exploring Time Drawing Club Activity	Exploring Time Maths Activity	Exploring Time Drawing Club Activity	Exploring Time Maths Activity	Exploring Time Reading Focus
11.20 – 11.45	**Phonics**				
11.45-11.50	**Get ready for lunch**				
11.50 - 1.00	**Lunch Time**				
1.00 – 1.10	**Relaxation Time and Register**				
1.10 – 1.20	**Understanding the World Focus**	**Creative Focus**	**Drawing/Writing Challenge**	**PE**	**Circle Time**
1.20 – 2.20	Exploring Time UW Focus Activity	Exploring Time Creative Focus Activity	Exploring Time Creative Focus Activity	PE in the hall Exploring Time	Exploring Time PSED Focus Activity
2.20 – 2.45	**Number of the Week**	**Poetry Basket**	**Yoga**	**Music/RE**	**Poetry Basket**
2.45-3.05	**Story and Home Time Routine**				