



Week beginning: 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

## Class R weekly newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back; I hope you all had a lovely break. This week, following on from Halloween, our nature-based theme is PUMPKINS. We will be carving our own pumpkin, counting with the seeds, painting pumpkin pictures in the style of Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama and using orange playdough to create pumpkin models. We hope to start growing our own 'pumpkin in a pumpkin' too! We will have a spooky witch / magic spell theme, using the story of *Room on the Broom* and making exciting fizzing potions!

In our CP, we have Halloween-based activities including some of the spider ones from the previous week: a spider game using tweezers to pick up the spiders without touching the web, 'loose parts' and materials to encourage spider-making, spooky spider webs and books. We also have potion-making outdoors and spell-creating indoors, where we will be encouraging the children to use their growing phonic knowledge to write their spooky spells e.g. bat, leg, bug... We will be collecting items to make a nature-based magic wand using a stick and cardboard star.

### Learning

In Literacy, we will be reading the Julia Donaldson story of 'Room on the Broom' and Helen Cooper's 'Pumpkin Soup'. We will be working with the children in small groups to write a 'spooky spell'. We continue phonics, with this week's focus sounds being: r, b & h. We have decided to split the class now for phonics, as we feel some children will benefit from working in a smaller group to help consolidate the phonemes taught.

We hope to give most children a phonics reading book now, to encourage sound recognition and discussion. **It is important that you take time to read with your child at home please - it really does make a difference.**

In Maths, we are learning about partitioning numbers (to 5) and introducing the part-whole model. I will make sure I send some homework about this soon so you can see what it is all about! We are also learning about 1 more and 1 less with numbers to 5 and using objects to help.

### Outdoor Learning

On Monday afternoon's Nature Walk, we will be collecting natural materials and sticks to use for our magic wands.

**Home Learning** Please send us any spooky and pumpkin photos!

**Homework** - in addition to reading, we have put the next phonics sheets in your child's folder - please remember, children don't necessarily have to write the letters but may choose to draw and stick pictures of things beginning with each sound instead. These sheets are also for parents' information, so that you know the sounds and actions we're learning each week.

Send your Wow moments to: [newstarters@coateslane.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:newstarters@coateslane.lancs.sch.uk)

Kind Regards, Mrs Boon and the EYFS team

**Notes:** I will be starting my Level 3 Forest School training from next week, 11<sup>th</sup> November. There will be a (very nice) supply teacher working for me for five Wednesdays. I am excited to be able to do this training and will then have a lot of work to do before submitting my portfolio next May - the children will be helping me lots as I try out all my new ideas!