

# Weekly Newsletter

## Important notes Phonics



We have assigned reading books at your child's reading level on the **Oxford Owl** online library. A paper slip, listing **your child's login details** has been stuck in the Reading Record or has been given to you if your child did not have their Reading Record with them. You can access the online library at the following link: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/login?active-tab=students>

To support your child in their reading journey, please practise the Set 1 sounds and read their phonics book with them for ten minutes each day. If you have any problem with accessing the website, please don't hesitate to talk to the Reception team.

## Reading Café

Our next Reading Café session will take, on **19<sup>th</sup> February**, Monday, between **2:30 - 3:00**. If you would like to join us, please call the school office on 0208 5391428 to reserve a space.

## Merit Awards

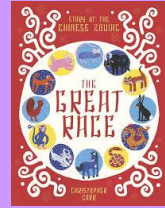


Westminster class  
**Mayken and Roland**

Waterloo class  
**Kenzy and Finn**

Lambeth class  
**Jonas and Ridley**

## Learning this week



It's been an exciting week filled with exploration and learning as we have begun the week with a bird watching adventure. Through reading the story of the Cheeky Sparrow, we have learnt about some of the British garden birds and like real ornithologist described the differences and similarities between these birds. We have been busy making binoculars and bird feeders to help our feathery friends and strengthen our finger muscles. The children loved spending time outside and a real buzz could be felt when they spotted a bird and they eagerly recorded their finding on the spotting sheets.

After a great start to the week, we have delved into learning about the Lunar New Year. We have discussed where it is celebrated in the world and focused on some of the traditions cherished in China. We've crafted red envelopes and counted coins to match them to numbers we found on the envelopes. To welcome the Lunar New Year, we have cleaned our classrooms and created paper lanterns to decorate it. We have even had a go at making our own dragon mask using boxes and our creativity and paraded around the playground as a dragon accompanied by the noise of the drums we have made.

We have enjoyed reading the story of The Great Race and learned about the animals of the Chinese Zodiac. As it's the Year of the Dragon, we have drawn our own creature and written a sentence about it. Listen to the story at home, can you draw and label your favourite character?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEfo9e4DWSI>

In maths we have further deepened our knowledge of composing numbers to 8. We have used counters to arrange on the wings of a ladybird as spots and practised describing all the different ways we could find. '2 is a part and 4 is a part, the whole is 6.' We have also focused on making pairs and learnt that a pair is two. We have arranged the class in pairs and talked about what we notice, using the language of odd one. We have also gathered some toys and arranged them on a ten frame- pair wise, noticing when we had an odd one left without a pair. At home can you gather some toys, cups or pencils and see whether you can arrange them in pairs? What do you notice?

We hope you have a restful half-term break and are looking forward to seeing you all after the holiday!

Best wishes,  
The Reception Team

# Challenges of the week

## Mathematician of the Month

### Florence Nightingale



**Mathematician of the Month**

**Florence Nightingale**  
(1820-1905)

Have you or your family ever been poorly and had to go to hospital? Did you notice all the hard work the nurses were doing to care for the patients and help them get better? Sadly, nurses are regarded as important, **super-skilled professionals**. But that hasn't always been the case. Before it got so, at the start of the 19th century, nurses usually had no training at all, and their wages were paid for the 'usual' work they did. But one woman changed all that... meet the amazing **Florence Nightingale**.

Florence Nightingale - also known as the 'Lady with the Lamp' - was the founder of modern nursing. She was also a statistician and social reformer who helped care for soldiers during the Crimean War. After the war, she set up the Nightingale School of Nursing, which aimed to formalise the education of nurses.

**MATHS CHALLENGE**

1. How many circles can you spot on the way to school each morning? Is it the same everyday?
2. How fast can you write the numbers 1-100 clearly? Get an adult to time you and compare to your friends.
3. Create a single page poster on the amazing life of Florence Nightingale.

"How very little can be done under the spirit of fear". **Florence Nightingale**

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## Science Wonder



**Science Wonder**  
A monthly science challenge.

Have you ever wondered... Where Did Earth's Water Come From?

We couldn't live at all if we didn't have water to drink! It's easy to forget how lucky we are to have access to water. But have you ever WONDERed, where did all of our water come from? Is Earth the only planet with so much water?

Ask a trusted adult to take you on a trip to the library or online. Do some research to find out: **Where Did Earth's Water Come From? Ways to use less and conserve water?** Use art materials you have or a Canva template and create a display on Earth's Water!

Up for a challenge? Hydrogen and oxygen atoms combine to form water. It can be hard to visualise something as small as an atom! Let's use our creativity. Can you draw, paint, sculpt, or build a model of a hydrogen or oxygen atom?

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Have a look at our monthly Science Wonder [here](#).

## Philosophy 4 Children

Talk together at home:

**Would you rather dance with a dragon or race with a rat?**



## Reading challenge

**Can you read out loud to someone at home?**



Please send your photos of your challenge to: [school@willowbrook-gst.org](mailto:school@willowbrook-gst.org)

## Rights of the week- LGBT+ History Month



LGBT+ History Month is all about promoting fairness, equality and diversity and raising awareness of LGBT+ people and culture, now and in the past. It aims to give voice to LGBT+ experiences, celebrate achievements and highlight the challenges people still face today. It is also about helping everyone to learn more about LGBT+ culture and history.

The theme for this year, along with more information about the month, can be found [here](#).

Why not have a go at one of the activities suggested on our school website to help you understand this week's theme a <https://willowbrook-gst.org/unicef-right-of-the-week-lgbt-history-month/>



# Our week in pictures



Making binoculars and bird feeders



We loved being  
ornithologists!



Drawing the birds we have  
spotted





# Our week in pictures



Drawing and writing about our dragons



We have strengthened our fingers whilst we persevered to use chopsticks



We made dragons to decorate the classroom



Organising a Lunar New Year celebration party in the home corner



Exploring how to compose numbers to 8



We worked as a team to make dragon heads