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## **Reception Newsletter – w/c 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Dear Reception Families,

Last week the children loved learning about spiders. We discussed how helpful spiders can be and learnt some fascinating spider facts. The children had the opportunity to make their own spider crafts, write books about spiders and create posters of spider facts.

### **Learning**

This week, we will continue our learning about minibeasts, with a special focus on slimy slugs!

We will be reading the story *Slug Life* by Moesha Kellaway

We will learn some new vocabulary with actions, including; pest, gastropod, evolve, slime and internal.

Can your child tell you the meaning of the words and show you the corresponding actions?

We will be learning some facts about slugs and snails and discussing their ideal habitats.

### **Handwriting**

We are continuing to teach handwriting following the *Little Wandle* programme. This approach links handwriting directly to the phonics children are learning, helping them form each letter with the correct starting point, direction and movement. At this stage, the focus is on developing strong foundations: sitting correctly, holding a pencil comfortably, and learning the letter formation phrases that match the sounds taught in phonics. You may hear your child talking about “letter families” or repeating the formation phrases they use in class. These help them build secure habits and confidence as writers.



If your child wants to practise at home, short, fun activities such as drawing, colouring, tracing, or writing in sand or shaving foam are ideal. Please avoid teaching alternative letter formations, as consistency with the *Little Wandle* approach really supports progress.

Thank you for your support as the children begin their handwriting journey.

Lumen Learning Trust c/o Saxon Primary School, Briar Road, Shepperton TW17 0JB  
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We are continuing with the 'curly letter family'. Below, are the letters we practised forming last week.

| Grapheme  | Formation phrase                                       |
|---|--|
|  | Around the elephant's eye and down its trunk.          |
|  | Under the snake's chin, slide down and round its tail. |

### Phonics

This week we will revisit the following sounds; **ur, igh, oa, ow, oo, ai, ar and ear.**

Perhaps you could practice reading these words at home, they will come up during our phonics sessions; **market, towel, wooden, looking, zooming, rooftop, carpark.** Ask your child to use the 'chunking' strategy to read them.

We will also revisit and review the following tricky words; **he we me be was you they all.**

### Maths

This week, we will explore making 10 using 2 and 3 parts, doubles of numbers to 10 and odd and even numbers.

Number Bonds Rhyme  
*This can be done with finger actions to show the bonds.*  
5 and 5 add up to 10  
6 and 4 make it again  
7 and 3 they also do  
Guess what! So do 8 and 2  
9 and 1, 10 and 0  
Learn them all, you're a number bond hero.



### Other Areas of Learning:

- **UW (Understanding the World)** – we will be learning about slugs and snails.
- **PSED (Personal, social and emotional development)** – This term's PSHE unit is Healthy Me. This week we will learn why sleep is important and discuss ways of helping ourselves go to sleep.
- **EAD (Expressive arts and design)** – we will be making slug/snail trails and crafts.
- **PD (Physical development)** - We will learn to use a baton to push beanbags and balls.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Morley, Mrs Duxon and Mrs Lewis