



Ditton  
Infant  
School

# HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD AT HOME

In this meeting we will...

- Learn how phonics, reading, writing and number are taught in the Foundation Stage.
- Give you lots of ideas of how to help your child practise the skills they have learnt at home.

# Phonics

Our Aim - recognise, name and write the letters of the alphabet

- To be able to do this they firstly have to learn to tune into the sounds in words.
- we begin by teaching the children to segment (split) words using sound talk like a robot and blend (put back together) words that are split up.
- we then teach the sound and letter name for each letter.
- 4 phonemes are taught each week with Friday being a consolidation day.

# Phonics Vocabulary

The children will learn to use the following words when talking about the letters they use:

- Phoneme- this is the smallest unit of sound e.g. s, a, t, p
- Grapheme- this is the written phoneme.
- Digraph- a phoneme containing two letters, e.g. sh in shop.
- Trigraph- a phoneme containing three letters, e.g. air in hair.

# Phonics-Phase 2

In this phase we teach the phonemes in the following sequence

- Set 1: s, a, t, p
- Set 2: i, n, m, d
- Set 3: g, o, c, k
- Set 4: ck, e, u, r
- Set 5: h, b, f (ff), l (ll) and ss.

# Phonics

Our phonic session each day is split into 4 parts

1. Revisit and Review
2. Teach
3. Practise
4. Apply

Each week we will send home games you might like to play with your child to support them in practising the new phonemes and to read and write the tricky words.

# Phonics at home

- Display phonemes or words of the week somewhere obvious maybe in your child's bedroom or on the fridge.
- Use magnetic fridge letters to make words using the letters from the week.
- Use small magnetic boards to make words together.
- Make flashcards and leave them in different places - inside and out.
- Make a letter hunt!
- Look for the letters and words learnt in stories you read with your child.
- Match words and pictures together and play pairs.
- Use your Reading Egg log in to practise phonics skills.

# Phonics at home

More ideas...

- Play I spy and look for objects that begin with the phonemes learnt.
- Play action games, but sound the words out like a robot!
- Think of as many words as you can that begin with one phoneme (this could be played in the car!)
- Make up real and made up 'alien' words and practise reading these with your children.
- ICT - children love computers and games on the internet and apps are often really successful in motivating children to learn (but please check that the letters are written in the school handwriting).

# Phonics

- It is really important that we teach the children to pronounce the phonemes correctly and to change the shape of their mouth and tongue to produce the correct sound.
- If your child is already recognising some phonemes please support them to think carefully about how they pronounce each phoneme.

# Reading

Our school reading mission is...

- To enable children to foster a love of reading and books.
- To teach children to be successful, confident readers.
- To encourage the children at Ditton Infant School to be “Readers for life”

Children who make the most progress in reading, read at home every day with an adult!

# Reading

- Please encourage your child to bring their book bag every day and choose a new book to share with you at home.
- Children will be given the opportunity to choose two reading books to bring home. (One will be banded at an appropriate level, the second will be a book of free choice).
- Children need to experience hearing higher level stories to inspire their story telling, their ability to structure stories, to write exciting stories and enjoy reading.

# Reading at home

- Remember reading is not just about books.

Please encourage your child to read:

- Road signs.
- Comics.
- Kindle children's books.
- Ebooks available online.
- The TV guide or
- Follow a recipe together and cook something yummy!

# Tell a Story Tuesday

- Is a brilliant opportunity for children to hear stories read in small groups by different adults.
- If you would like to help in your child's class please sign up on my sign up sheet before you leave today. 😊
- We would love to encourage parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles to join us for this special time.

# Writing

- To support the children in gaining pencil control we provide them with a wide range of Write Dance opportunities.
- Our Write Dance sessions focus on large movements first controlling the whole body and then smaller movements using our hands.
- Once they have developed this control we then focus on the formation of letters in line with our school handwriting style.
  
- Each letter fits into one of our 4 handwriting families.
  1. Curly Caterpillar Letters
  2. Ladder Letters
  3. One-armed robot Letters and
  4. ZigZag monster Letters

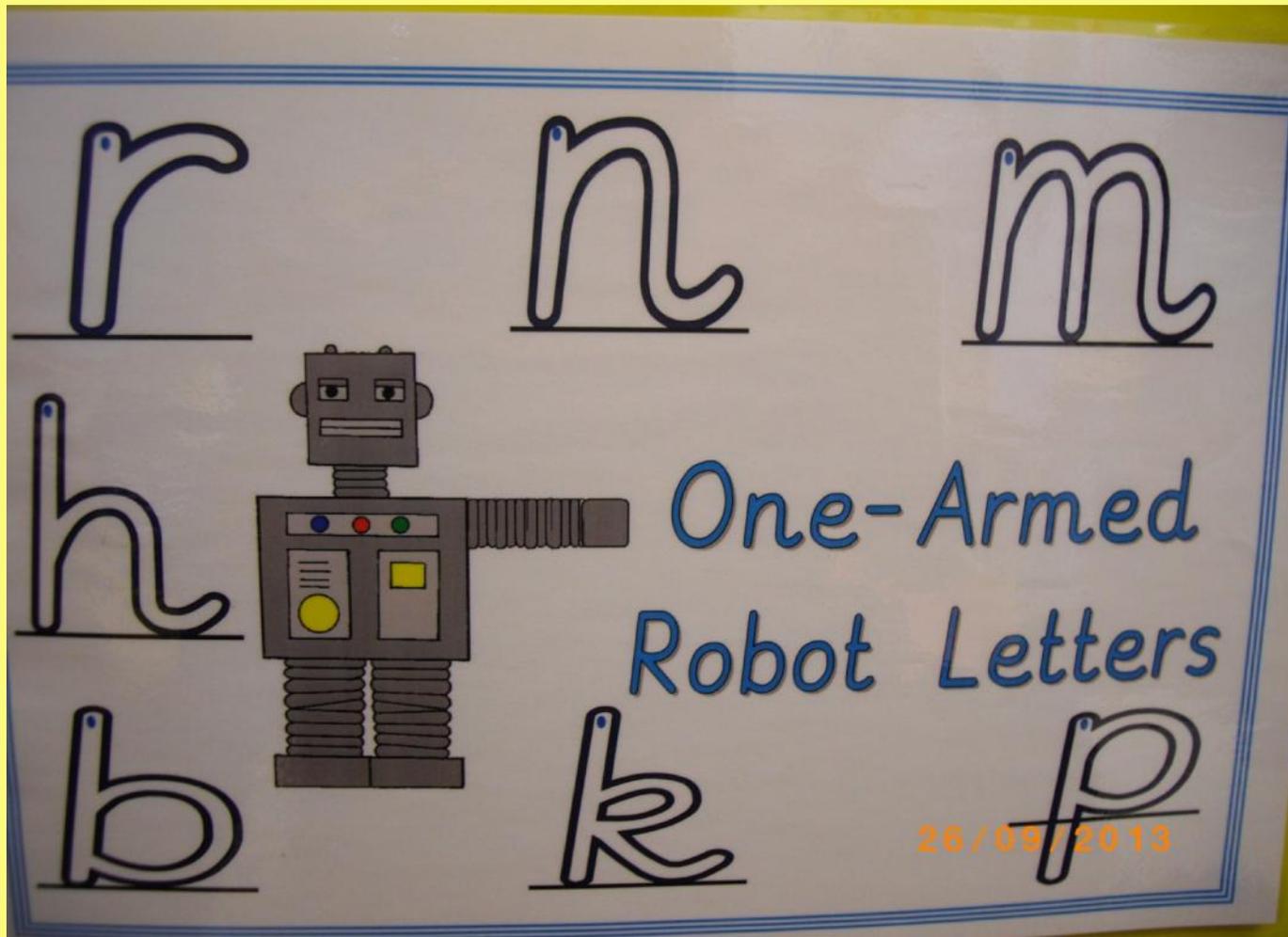
# Caterpillar Letters



# Ladder Letters



# One-armed robot Letters



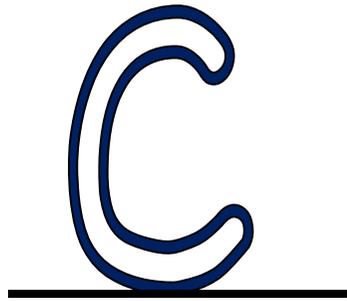
# Zigzag Monster Letters



# Handwriting Rhymes

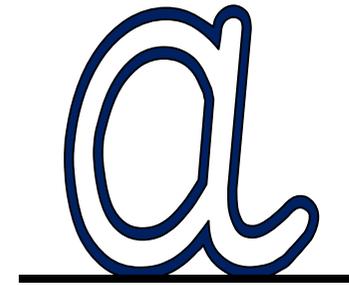
- Each handwriting family has a basic rhyme. This helps the children to recall the formation of each family of letters.
- Here are some examples-

# Handwriting Rhymes



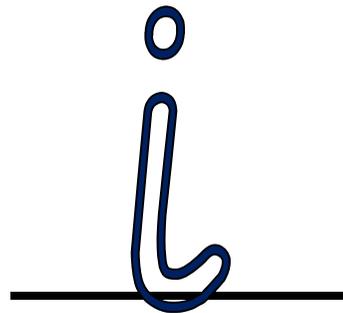
## Caterpillar Rhyme

Curl left around  
the caterpillar.



## Caterpillar Rhyme

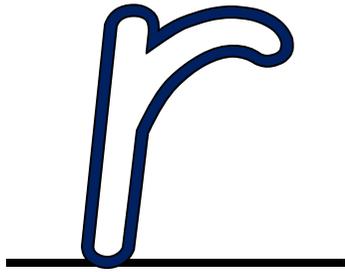
Curl left around  
the caterpillar, go  
up, go down.



## Ladder Letter Rhyme

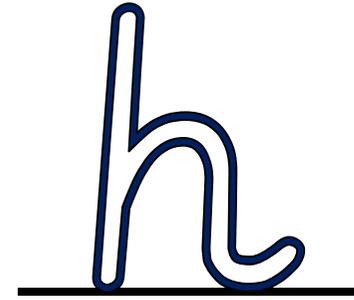
Down the ladder,  
add a little flick  
and dot the top.

# Handwriting Rhymes



## One-armed robot Rhyme

Robot down, robot  
up and stop, add  
his arm.



## One-armed robot Rhyme

Robot down, robot  
up and stop in the  
middle, add his  
arm and go down.



## Zigzag Monster Rhyme

Zigzag down,  
zigzag up.

# Writing at home

- Practise making patterns with lots of different mark making equipment, paint, chalk, water or shaving foam...we find the messier the better!
- Help your child to recognise and write their names with the correct formation (please ask your child's class teacher if you would like a new copy of this).
- Encourage your child to write cards, lists, notes, labels, shopping lists etc in their own writing style.
- A big thank you to everyone who supported their child to record their own marks and give meaning to these in their busy books over the weekend.

# Writing at home

- Encourage your child to think about what they want to record, to listen for the first sound in the word and form it correctly to represent a word.
- Writing development moves from mark making, to random strings of letters, to words represented by one or two phonemes and finally to using initial, middle and end sounds. Some words will be spelt correctly and others phonetically plausible.

I wet to swimin lessns.

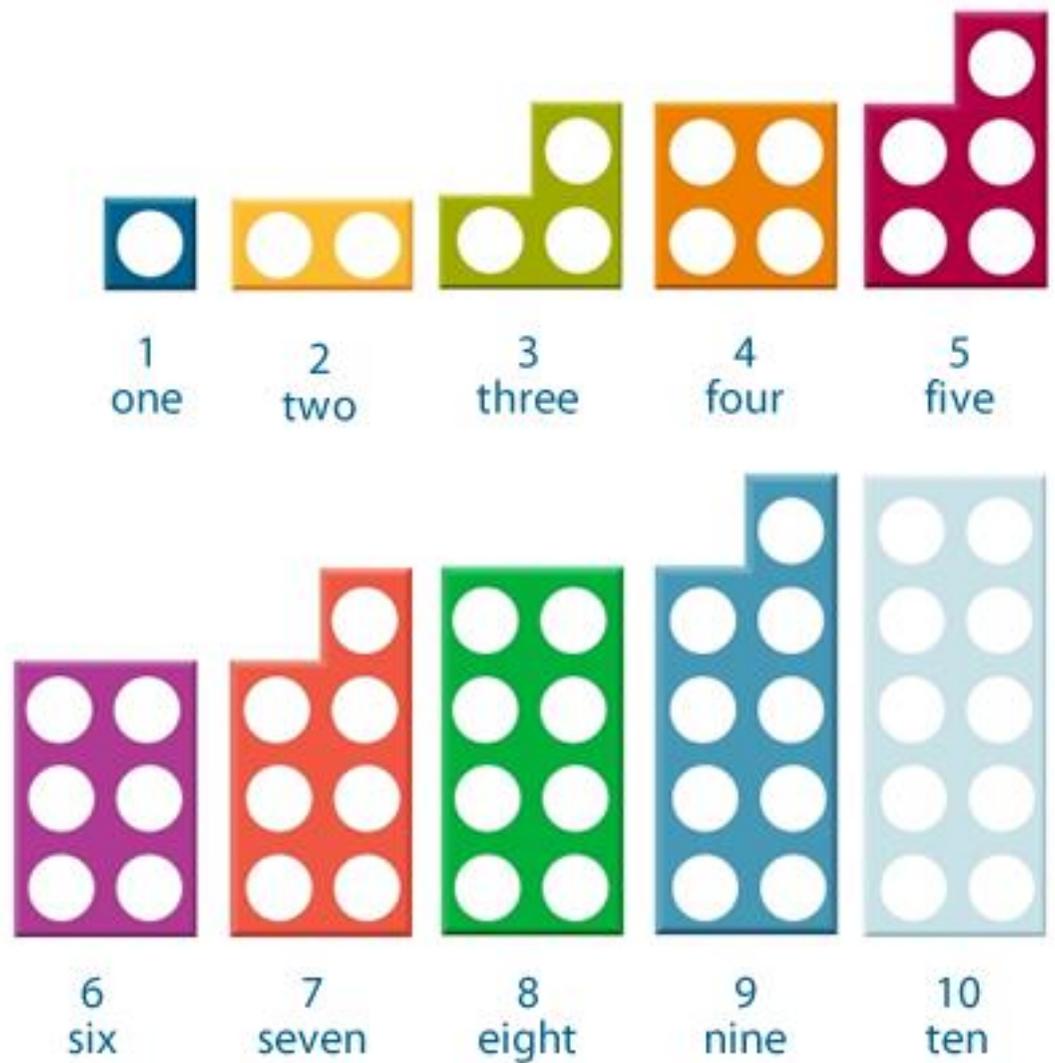
It is mI Mummy berthdai.

Can wee goa to the caik shop.

# Mathematics

- Count accurately - use their 'pointy finger' to count one object at a time.
- Recognise, order and write numbers (each number has a rhyme to help the children form them correctly and we will be sending these home very soon).
- By the end of the year most of the children will be able to work with numbers to 20 and beyond (sequencing, adding and subtracting)
- To solve number problems we teach the children to count on and count back from a given number using practical resources such as number lines.
- Maths opportunities should be as real life as possible.

# Using Numicon to support Mathematical learning



# Mathematics at home

- Make their own number cards, practise muddling them up and putting them back in the right order.
- Have your own number hunt.
- Use magnetic numbers or the number formation rhyme cards to encourage number recognition.
- Make up number sentences using number cards.
- Play skittles and work out each player's score or how many are left after each roll.
- Count how many steps it is to bed, how many hops your child can do or how many pieces of snack they have in their bowl.
- Use your child's favourite toys to motivate them to count, sort and group objects and solve simple calculations.
- Use play dough to make number shapes, or count how many little balls they can make from one piece of play dough.

# ICT at home

- [http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics\\_games.html](http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html)
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/phonics/>
- <http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>
- [http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/kentict/content/games/literacy\\_menu.html](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/kentict/content/games/literacy_menu.html)
- <http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html>
- <http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks1literacy.html>
- <http://www.starfall.com/>
- <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freeIndex.htm>
- <http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/home/reading-owl/reading>

# Challenge Time

- In the Foundation Stage we talk a lot about challenging ourselves and how we can extend our learning. We do not talk about playing but what we learn through the activity we choose.
- Since joining Gold and Silver class your children have been learning to talk about what they are 'doing' or 'challenging themselves to do'. For example-
  - “Playing in the sand” would become “I challenged myself to dig a tunnel with my hands so that my cars could get to the forest” this encourages the children to think about the skills they are using and to develop how they use the same resources in different ways for a chosen purpose.
- During week the children will be set challenges to help them focus on developing new skills and to work independently during teacher directed and child initiated learning opportunities.

# How can my child be a successful learner

- Colour coded challenges help children to think about the skills they need to develop to be a successful learner.
- In each lesson the children will be told what they will be learning and then the steps they need to follow to be a successful learner are broken down into red skills, orange skills and green skills. The children will be supported to choose which colour learner they will be.

WALT write our name

1. I can look and copy some letters using my name card.



2. I can write my name with and then without my name card.

Oliver

~~Oliver~~

3. I can write my first name using my school handwriting.



# Jungle Explorers



## Jungle Explorer

- To become a great learner we feel that children need to learn to struggle, get stuck and work through problems in a safe environment.
- The jungle will be a visual prompt to help them to think about where they are on their learning journey within each lesson and when they do and do not need adult help.
- The children will learn to work independently knowing that the adults are there to support and challenge them when needed.
- We will be celebrating the children who have TRIED their hardest each week

# Any Questions...

- If you have any questions after today's meeting please do come and ask Miss Robb or myself and we will be happy to answer them.
- Thank you for coming - we look forward to working with you this year.