

14th February 2025

Dear parents and carers

What a busy and wonderful half term we have had at HETTY!

Children are bringing popcorn in packed lunches unfortunately the guidance says that children should not have popcorn under the age of 5 .

If you have any donations of spare wellies for us to use on our forest trips, we would really appreciate them. We often take the children to explore the school forest and so they would be really useful. If you would like to leave a pair of named wellies in HETTY for your children throughout the week, that would also be helpful.

Just for your information, our morning session at HETTY starts at 8.45am unless your child is booked in for breakfast club, in which case they can be dropped off any time from 7.45am. Unfortunately we cannot allow non breakfast club children into the setting before 8.40am as we have staff ratios that we need to adhere to. Thank you for your understanding.

We've had great fun with our topics this half term:

We have explored the season of **Winter** through crafts, music, drama and stories, we've celebrated **Chinese New Year** even including a dance with a Chinese dragon! Our little feathered friends were very well looked after during our topic about **birds** which culminated in the **RSPB birdwatch weekend**. There has been so much learning around the theme of **storytelling and traditional tales** when lots of the children loved coming into HETTY in their pyjamas to mark **National Storytelling Week**. Many of our activities help children with their mental health and wellbeing and this was brought to the forefront even more so when we celebrated **Children's Mental Health Week**. The children were encouraged to do 'happy breathing,' make 'calming wands' and listen to stories and songs to ground them in their wellbeing. This week we are thinking about those we love and showing kindness to those around us. If you're lucky, you might even get a **Valentine's** craft from some of the children!

Our phonics this half term has been about hearing and recognising the initial letter and sound in the children's names. We have also had lots of fun listening to and learning about the phonemes /m/e/g/o/c/k/d/.

The children have been having a blast during our cardinality and counting weeks. They've been playing games using Numicon puzzles and play dough, making funny creatures with play dough and loose parts, counting 'mice' into jars for a 'hungry snake', and counting out 'flowers to plant into flowerpots'. All these activities have been designed to make learning enjoyable.

The children have been applying their math skills in practical ways, such as developing their understanding and use of the everyday language of direction (up, down, though, over and under) by going on a 'Bear Hunt' in the forest, taking part in agility courses during P.E. and designing agility courses for their pet toys. The agility courses were a blast!

Shapes week saw the children creating patterns and pictures with 2D shapes, selecting the correct shapes and practising rotating and flipping them to fill a specific space, drawing around shapes, making shape collages, 'fishing' for shapes and completing puzzles by matching the correct shapes to their outlines. Sorting and sequencing week has allowed the children to sort shapes and toys using different combinations of properties such as colour sizes and thickness.

We hope you have a wonderful half term break (unless you're booked in for holiday club in which case we will see you next week!) We will see you week beginning 24th February.

Best wishes,

The HETTY Team



Walter's Wonderful Web by Tim Hopgood
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/hiteseize/articles/zxc7yuc>

The Perfect Fit, Shapes by Roald Dahl.
The Perfect Fit' Storytime with author Naomi Jones and illustrator James Jones (for ages 2-)
<https://youtu.be/fj7dzdXkBTg>

We're Going on a Bear Hunt, performed by Michael Rosen
<https://youtu.be/09y16ykDw0s>

Go away, big green monster!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPmlZ1p-ocg>

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Animated Film <https://youtu.be/0ZTr3Xz97siwTsEHn8QmhDle1U>

Mouse Count
GO! READ Mouse Count ([youtu.be](https://youtu.be/X1CV49qfa10?si=U6-H1tXrnSVjSZp)) <https://youtu.be/X1CV49qfa10?si=U6-H1tXrnSVjSZp>

Writing Numbers | Number Songs | PINKFONG Songs for Children
https://youtu.be/DzKqCmjXLT?si=v3_zyXcan0gZ2ic

PINKFONG 123 Numbers - Songs to learn each numbers from 1 to 3

One Elephant | Number Songs | PINKFONG Songs for Children
<https://youtu.be/uXuUj5P6TU4?si=QFv47Nu52QTM6uE6>

Counting Images & Actions to 5 in Songs
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-a-to-h-index/z4c4dguux>