Growing  This term we are exploring things that grow.

Our story this week is **Monkey Puzzle** by Julia Donaldson. If you don’t have a copy, have a look at the story here [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtrUBXP1jdo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtrUBXP1jdo)

You can even watch Julia Donaldson herself singing a ‘Monkey Puzzle’ song! [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4br3vquG1Yc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4br3vquG1Yc)

The monkey in the story tells us all about the features his mum has.

**Practice writing** by labelling a picture of your mum or someone else in your family. Pretend that they have an unusual feature, perhaps one of the features from Monkey Puzzle. Maybe your mum has wings or your grandad has a tail! You can explain what is happening in your picture by labelling it or writing a sentence. For example ‘My mum has a…’

Busy Things has a very fun game called ‘Animal Muddle’ which allows you to mix up different animal features, maybe it could give you some ideas...

**As a mathematician** develop your skills by holding a number in your head and counting on. We suggest doing this by starting with some objects, such as raisins. Start with a small amount (e.g. two) and cover them or place them in a box. Add another small amount (e.g 3). Can you figure out how many raisins there are without having to count them all? If you find this easy, try again with some bigger numbers or have a try at writing your answer as a number sentence (e.g. 2 + 3 = 5). **This week if you log on to Purple Mash, you will see a game called ‘Bond Bubble’ which also helps you to practise your addition (start with level 1).**

If you’d like to try some more maths activities each day, have a look at [https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/early-years/](https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/early-years/) which has a new fun video lesson every day linked to a story (this is also linked on Google Classroom). Remember there are lots of fun maths games on Busy Things too, every week we will ‘pin’ relevant activities at the top of the homepage.

**Read** with an adult for at least 15 minutes every day. Email your teacher if you need to change books.

Grow as a reader by learning the sound **‘oy’ (toy to enjoy)**. Read and write some simple words with this sound in (e.g. toy, boy, enjoy, joy).

Read Write Inc. are streaming live phonics lessons on their YouTube channel daily. We recommend watching sets 1 and 2 speed sounds. [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo7fbLgY2oA_cFCIG9GdxTQ?reload=9](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo7fbLgY2oA_cFCIG9GdxTQ?reload=9)
We hope everybody has got their tricky words as part of the learning pack you received, please continue to practice these tricky words by looking at them one at a time and reading them aloud.

Keep fit with physical activity for at least an hour every day (it doesn’t have to be all at once!) Go out on your bike or scooter, have a walk, play balloon tennis, do the Joe Wicks PE session, learn a fun dance on Go Noodle or Boogie Beebies or make up your own dance to the music on the radio, do a cosmic kids yoga session or even just see how many times you can hop in a minute! This week you might want to choose one of the animals from our story (e.g. snake, butterfly, elephant) and see if you can move in the same way!

Get creative by painting your own monkey picture or perhaps by creating your own butterfly puppet. You could also choose one of the animals from our story and make a detailed drawing. Remember to look carefully at all the features. You could also use some split pins to make your own monkey!

Expand your understanding of the world by seeking out some more information about the animals in our story. If you don’t have any non-fiction books to hand, Espresso has a big variety of factual videos about different animals around the world. Twinkl also has a very enjoyable activity which involves matching baby animals to their parents. This is a great opportunity to talk about how baby animals change as they grow.

This term, our value is achievement. Please celebrate and share the work that you are proud of (and send us some photos!) This week our focus is on being brave enough to try something new or take a risk. This can be in any area from learning to ride a bike or tricky word in a writing task. Remember, it isn’t about always getting it right, the most important thing is having a try!