

Dear Parent/Carers,

In English, we have returned to our learning from several weeks ago about writing a factfile. Following our visit from the petting zoo several weeks ago, we have learnt lots of fascinating facts about an armadillo. This week in English, we have written these facts into a factfile with an introduction and paragraphs about its habitat, diet and appearance. Did you know that an armadillo can hold its breath for up to 6 minutes to help it to cross rivers and streams? A group of armadillos is called a roll but armadillos are happy to live alone or in pairs. The factfiles that the children wrote really impressed us with their accuracy and scientific vocabulary!

In Maths this week, we have learnt an important life skill of totalling money and used this to find change and recap addition and subtraction. Our top tip to each other was to either add the two coins with the greatest value first or add coins of the same value to begin with. Some examples of purses we calculated can be found below:



If anybody would like some further practice at totalling money or choosing coins to make an amount, there are some interactive games that can be found at the following web addresses:

- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/money/coins-game>
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/money/toy-shop-money>

On Wednesday, we enjoyed the visit from Bike Ability who worked with the children in small groups to help them develop the key skills needed to confidently ride a bike without stabilisers. We were very impressed with how resilient the children were, especially those who took a risk and rode their bikes without stabilisers despite not feeling confident. Below are some tips that the company give for supporting your child when learning to ride a bike:

1. **RUN:** The child will sit on the bike with their feet touching the ground. They need to be able to propel or push the bike forward with their feet using an alternate foot action 1,2,1,2, etc. If the saddle is too high and the child cannot touch the floor, this will not work. If you can remove the pedals also to stop them getting in the way, it will help as they are not needed at this stage.
2. **BALANCE:** Lift up both feet together to balance the bike! We also call this gliding but we are helping the children to learn to balance. Do not be tempted to hold them in any way as this stops the child 'feeling' how to balance.
3. **FEET ON THE PEDALS:** You now need the pedals back on the bike. These may bang your child's legs when they try to run. Wear wellies or boots or even better encourage them to lift their feet ABOVE the pedals then put them ON THE PEDALS AND BALANCE. We do not pedal yet. We practice this until we are very confidently doing it.
4. **PEDAL:** Don't TELL your child to pedal. Let them do it when they are ready – and they will be!

As always, many thanks for your support,
Mrs Haigh, Miss Heneghan and the Year 2 Team