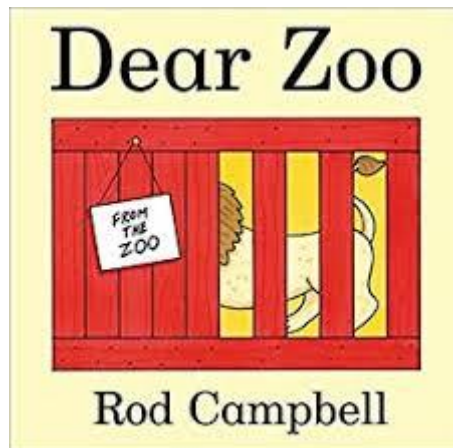


Early Years Topic Letter - Spring 2



Welcome back and I hope you have had a well deserved break either from work or home schooling and hopefully we can be altogether back in school safely soon. You did an AMAZING job last term, so well done and we can do it again I am sure!

Miss Dick is now on maternity leave and we are eagerly awaiting news of the arrival of her baby, as soon as we know anything we will share news with you all.

Gentle reminders:

Please continue to support us as we work to keep your children safe. We hope to make your child's experience as fun and inspiring as possible and are thinking of creative ways of doing this without our usual visitors and school trips. Please remember to **social distance** at all times on our school site and remember only **one adult** should be picking your child up from school to reduce numbers on our school site.

Please remember a WATERPROOF COAT at all times, we go out in all weathers so a hat, scarf and gloves will be needed as the weather continues to be cold and wet! Spare clothes are also a must even if your child doesn't have accidents there are times where they may have got wet so a spare set is a good idea, especially socks or tights!

Please make sure every item of clothing is clearly marked with your child's name. There have been lots of items of uniform go missing this half term or end up going home with someone else. I am still picking up cardigans, jumpers and hoodies on a daily basis with no name in... making it impossible to reunite them!

Please remember to log onto your child's tapestry account regularly even if your child is in school as this will help you to see what your child's next steps are and will help you to support your child's learning. Further to this, it is a lovely way to see what we have been up to and talk about school with your children. Don't forget to upload achievements and experiences at home! I will continue to upload receptions home learning daily at 8.30am along with a morning message and any other messages that I may have to pass on, nursery home learning will continue to be uploaded on a Monday at 8.30am for the week and you will receive the morning message daily.

As an additional challenge for all children I will be uploading a **rainbow challenge** weekly, this is something I would have been introducing if we had been in school (to reception children) and I thought it might mix home learning up a bit for you too. It is a challenge sheet of various activities which focus on different skills of the EYFS curriculum and every task you do (there are seven, each colour of the rainbow) you would receive a lolly stick of that colour in school and if you make a rainbow you will receive a rainbow challenge certificate! This will be uploaded on a Monday along with your home learning as a word document and it is up to you and your child if you wish to complete any or all. It will run Monday to Monday, so you have a full week, I will award certificates on my Tuesday morning message. Hopefully you will find it a bit of fun.

Please remember if your child is part of a google meet session, either 1-1 or as a group, I will not be phoning you to keep in touch. However if you feel you need to talk to me, that is fine and I am in school so you can call and leave a message or drop me a message on tapestry and I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as I can.

Personal, Social and Emotional

Development

We will continue to reinforce positive behaviour at all times in EYFS. Supporting the children to develop their personal, social and emotional development is at the core of what we do in every way.

This half term we will place particular emphasis on: Negotiating and solving problems, altering behaviours, coping with change, developing confidence and speaking in front of groups.

We will use our focus text 'Dear Zoo' to understand how humans produce babies that grow into adults. To consider the ways in which they have changed since birth.

To begin to recognise proper names for external body parts.

To describe some functions of some body parts.

Physical Development

This half term we will be continuing to developing our independence! We will be working on putting our own shoes or wellies on, going to the toilet, identifying when we need our nappy changes, putting our coat on, peeling our fruit and putting our straw in our milk! You can help at home by supporting your child to get dressed by themselves and have a go at putting their coat on before you help them. You can also support them to wash their hands; this is something we have been working on lots at school!

We will also be working hard to develop our fine motor and gross motor skills. We will be continuing with dough disco sessions and will also introduce a new activity called 'squiggle while you wiggle'. This is a new programme which we have bought to help support the children to develop their gross motor skills and early writing in a fun and energetic way!



We will continue to promote gross motor activities like climbing, jumping, running, throwing and catching.

We will be taking part in lots of fine motor activities which will help to develop the strength in our fingers, and support us to hold a pencil effectively. These will include things like pinching, threading, using pegs, twisting, brushing, stacking and using tweezers.

We will be developing our pencil control and Reception will be focussing on accurate letter formation in our name and other words as well as writing sentences and labelling pictures. In Nursery, if we are ready, we will also be working hard to write our names!



RE

This half term Reception will continue to take part in RE sessions to understand Christianity and will focus on 'God'

We will be learning:

To know what we need to keep us happy and stay alive (friends, family, love, food etc)

To have an awareness of why people are grateful to God for things which make us happy.

To know what God means.

To understand that Christians see God as a loving and special friend.

To understand that some people worship different Gods.

To know what worship is.

To have an awareness of ways that we can

Communication and Language

We develop the children's listening and attention, understanding and speaking skills all of the time and often based on your child's next steps as the children often have specific areas to work on. This half term we will be focusing on:

Listening and following instructions.

Singing and learning lots of familiar and new nursery rhymes.

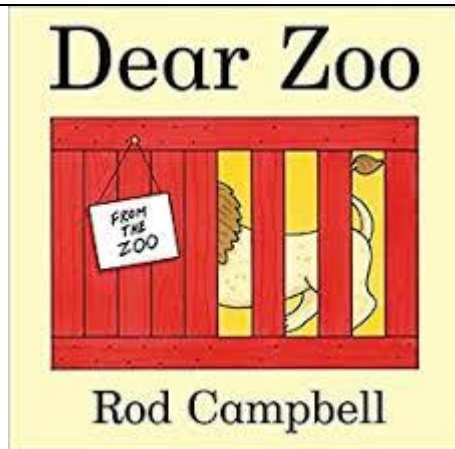
Learning the 'Dear Zoo' story off by heart through our Talk4Writing approach and learn new vocabulary in relation to the story and characters.

Using more complex sentences to link our ideas and thoughts. Some of the children will take part in 'TalkBoost' sessions.

worship.

To be able to recall some of the story about
God.

To Retell the Easter story.



Reception Literacy

This half term in Reception we will continue to focus on recapping our RWInc set 1 and 2 sounds through short and snappy ‘speed sounds’ sessions each morning, designed to teach the children to recognise and pronounce the pure sounds, this helps children to blend to read and segment to spell and write. I will continue to plan and deliver a pre-recorded phonics or literacy lesson daily which I will share on tapestry for you to use with your child.

We will also continue to introduce new red words this half term. We have already learnt lots of tricky red words and we will be recapping these words and supporting the children to apply these in their own writing within the provision and through the lessons I will be sharing. We will be developing our writing skills this half term so that the children can label pictures and write for various purposes using initial sounds, single words or simple captions and sentences where they are able. It still remains very important that as the children pick up the Read, Write, Inc. sounds that they practise forming these accurately, starting in the correct place.

We will be developing our ‘Talk 4 Writing’ skills this half term by linking lots of what we do to our focus text ‘Dear Zoo’. We will be learning to retell this story by creating story maps, learning actions and taking part in lots of fun activities relating to the text.

We will share non-fiction books about animals that we find in the zoo and learn about how information can be retrieved from books and computers. We will work together to write our own story in the same format as ‘Dear Zoo’ and will label pictures of some zoo animals and write fact files about these animals for our zoo role play area.

We will be continuing to write for a purpose - writing shopping lists, letters to our friends and much more.

You can continue to support your child at home by helping them with their oral blending and segmenting. Play games such as saying a word by sounding it out f-i-r-s-t – can they say the word? Practise reading daily and share lots of stories! There are the Oxford Owl books and the books on MyOn as well as the Ditty I will continue to share each week along with the home reading book that if you are not in school you will have the opportunity to read 1-1 with an adult via a google meet session, if you are in school your reading book will be sent home in your reading bag. Don’t forget to practise your RWinc green and red word cards along with your RWI sound cards. You can support your child to write by being very positive if they have a go and by modelling writing for lots of different purposes.

Key vocabulary: fiction, non-fiction, sentences, captions, finger spaces, full stops, capital letters, rhyme.

Nursery Literacy

This half term in Nursery we will be continuing to focus on learning and retelling familiar and new Nursery rhymes. We will be sharing our focus text of ‘Dear Zoo’ as we take part in many activities linked to the story and we will learn to retell the story and put actions to it. We will share non-fiction texts about zoo animals and enjoy learning about them through various videos and books.

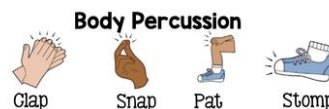
We will be working on having a go at writing our names and developing our mark making skills.

This half term we will be continuing to place our emphasis on creating confident mark maker's, allowing the children to explore the different marks they make using a variety of tools including chalk, pens, pencils, crayons, water and in sensory trays. We will use our new programme 'Squiggle While you Wiggle' to help us to develop our early writing skills in an energetic and fun way.

We will also be promoting drawing and supporting the children to talk about what they have drawn and the marks they have made.

We will continue to plan phase one phonics activities which will help us to develop our sound discrimination and listening skills. This half term we will be focussing on body percussion and rhythm

Key vocabulary: fiction, non-fiction, rhyme.



Nursery Maths

Maths happens all day in Early Years, during the register, at snack time and while the children play.

Before the day has even started we have counted and added up how many children we have at school and recorded this using numicon and on tens frames.

This half term we will focus on:

Using positional language.

Continue to develop language related to time.

Recognising and naming 2D shapes.

Recognising and naming numerals in the environment, matching quantities to numerals.

Key vocabulary: under, behind, on top, next to, in front.

Before, after, next, triangle, circle, square, rectangle.

Reception Maths

Maths happens all day in Early Years. Each morning at register time, we will count how many children we have, add them up and record this using numicon and number sentences before our day has even started! Maths is covered in all areas of the provision but as the children move into Reception they also take part in short directed Maths activities. The children can then apply the skills they have used in the provision.

This half term we will focus on:

Numbers 9 and 10.

Number bonds to 10 using part whole and tens frames.

Patterns – making and recognising patterns.

A big focus this half term will also be to continue to consolidate all we have learned so far to continue our strong deeper understanding of number and shape.

Key vocabulary: addition, plus, add, subtraction, take away, subtract, equals, total.

Expressive, Art and Design

This term the children will have the opportunity to:

Represent own ideas.

Play cooperatively as part of a group to develop and act out as a narrative.

Make up own rhythms.

Build stories around toys and objects.

Combine different materials and textures to create new effects.

Independently manipulate materials.

Make up animal dances and move in different ways.

Understanding the World

This term we will be:

Discussing similarities and differences with animals and their habitats.

Showing care and concern for living things – zoo versus living in the wild.

Thinking about animals that do not live in a zoo, for example writing our own 'Dear Farm' story.

Thinking about how human activity influences the environment.

Developing our ability to select what technology we need for a purpose (I pads, laptops, phone, camera etc).

Using technology to research animals and their habitats and record live events).

Key vocabulary: habitats, baby, adult, animals names as young and adult e.g. puppy and dog, humans, environment, correct names for technological equipment such as camera etc.