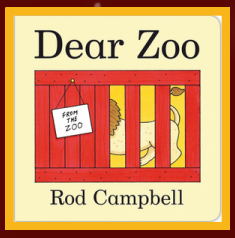
EYFS CURRICULUM NEWS
SPRING TERM 1 - 'COME OUTSIDE'



As mini learners the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage will be exploring and learning in our new topic 'Come Outside'. We kick the topic off discussing the change in the seasons and the changes that take place in Winter. We are making plans to update and enrich our outdoor area, including revitalising our Nature area. The bug hotel needs some renovating, as does the bird boxes from last year (hopefully our blue tit family will return) and we are looking to develop some new additions for encouraging and identifying wildlife. More news to follow later in the year! Our outdoor area is not just an area to run and play we are encouraging the children to take time to relax, unwind and enjoy the calming properties and mindfulness involved in "being in the moment" and sitting, resting and spotting birds and other wildlife that frequent the school

Literacy, Communication & Language - As mini readers and writers, we will use a variety of animal themed story books to support our writing. These may include; Dear Zoo, Lucky Duck (RSPB book), Owl Babies, The Great Pet Sale and Tree, Seasons Come and Seasons Go. We will discover, and invent, new words in our Drawing Club sessions.

Phonics - In phonics, the Reception children will continue to work in bespoke groups and focus on blending sounds together for reading. We will also be practising the skill of segmenting sound to write 3 and 4 letter words. In writing, we will be teaching children to start creating and using words in lists, labelling etc with a view to beginning to write simple sentences and captions to complement their pictures.

Maths - We start the term introducing the concept of zero, then look at ways to represent, compose and subitise numbers 0-5. To further develop our shape knowledge, we will be exploring and discovering 3D shapes. Growing 6, 7 and 8 by representing and combining 2 groups to find a total. Adding 1 more and finding 1 less. Find a double, making a double and making pairs – odd and even.

Understanding the World - As mini geographers and scientists we will make and explore ice. The children will discuss cold climates, hibernation and the natural environment in Winter. We will learn about the pets we have at home and how we care for them. Some of the children will learn to identify and group animals in a variety of ways. Including the use of vocabulary like; fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, and identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. We participate in the Big School Birdwatch and offering families the opportunity to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch at home or in the parks. It's all about counting the birds you see, so it's a great way to engage children with nature, science and maths. In combination with this we will take part in the RSPB's free Wild Challenge Award to discover more wildlife and help the nature in and around our school and helping our children to use their senses to experience nature.

Physical Development - As mini sports starts, we will have coach Ben every Tuesday, teaching us ball skills. This will involve using both our hands and our feet, along with our hand eye coordination. We will practise and learn new ways to manage and use different types of balls as individuals, and develop our gross motor coordination and skills. We will also use our skills in team sports and find ways to work together. In class we will begin to fine tune our fine motor skills, using our pencils effectively and continuing to create clear and legible script. We will use playdough, tweezers, counters and utensils to develop our grip.

PSHE & RE - As mini thinkers, we use circle time to listen to the opinions of others and begin to explore the values that we follow in Holyport School and consider why we have chosen those values. The children will also be learning to explore why families and special people are valuable, and see themselves as valuable individuals. Within this we will begin to explore diversity through thinking about similarities and differences. Mrs Harris is exploring what it means to be a good Christian. The children will discuss what they believe are Christian values and how we, at Holyport school, try to represent those values in our work and play.

Expressive Art and Design - As mini artists and creators, we will make a birdwatching hide and some binoculars with which to watch the birds. We will design and make bird feeders from different resources, considering how best to provide food that is easy for the birds to find. In role play we will act out having pets in our home corner and will set up as a vets for the children to explore. We will explore frosty pictures and paint a picture that we feel best represents Winter. We will also be changing our class tree to show the changes in our Winter weather. We will also explore percussion instruments to make Winter music.