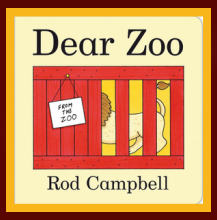
EYFS CURRICULUM NEWS
SPRING TERM 1 - 'COME OUTSIDE!'



Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage will be exploring and learning in our new topic 'Come Outside'.

Literacy, Communication & Language - 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.

Phonics - In phonics, the reception children will continue to 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. We then explore mass and capacity using balance scales to compare mass and explore capacity of different sized containers. 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 - We kick the topic off discussing the change in the seasons and the changes that take place in Winter. We will discuss how we can care for birds and other wildlife and how some animals hibernate to survive the cold and how other animals in the wild survive in cold climates. We will also learn about how some animals are more active and live their lives mainly at night rather than in the day. 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 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.

Expressive Art & Design - We will use different textures; make patterns using different colours and explore ways to protect the growing of plants by designing scarecrows. We will also make Chinese laterns for Chinese New Year.

Physical Development - This term we are looking at movement and dance in PE and we will also try to incorporate some of the Chinese Lion Dancing. We may decorate our classroom, cook some Chinese food and hold our own celebrations in our classroom. We will also be taking part in Ms Horn's "Chopstick Challenge". More info to follow...

New Year, new ideas! - We are making plans to update and enrich our outdoor area, including revitalising our nature area and allotment area. The bug hotel needs some renovations (perhaps a new kitchen!!) and we are looking to develop some new additions for encouraging and identifying wildlife. More news to follow later in the year! As such we will be hoping to 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. Here at school, 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. In combination with this we will be drawing up ideas and plans as to what the children would like to include in their outdoor area, including planting and growing of crops and insect friendly wildflowers.

Chinese New Year - Chinese New Year takes place on or around the 29th January. Look out for local events and celebrations as these are fantastic family events to attend. 2025 is the year of the Snake. We will share the Chinese Zodiac Story and look at the animals native to China.

As the term progresses, we hope we might be able to invite guests and parents in to class to spend time sharing our learning. The children always enjoy having their families and guests visit them at school and we are looking at developing opportunities for that to happen, whether it be sharing a story, sharing our school learning or listening to other people's cultures, jobs and experiences.