

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Nursery parents/carers,

### **Nursery Curriculum Letter – Spring (1<sup>st</sup> half)**

What a fantastic Autumn term we had. The children have all settled into Nursery life forming friendships with one another, building relationships with staff and following the golden rules and daily routines. They have learnt so much already and have shown us that they have a real thirst for knowledge in all areas of the curriculum. This letter will briefly outline some of the engaging learning your children will take part in this half term.

#### **Our Core Values**

Happiness: We spread joy to those around us.

Compassion: We care and are kind to all.

Respect: We treat others as we like to be treated.

Teamwork: We work well with everyone.

#### **Nursery Staffing**

Nursery Manager- Mrs Halligan

Nursery Learning Support Assistants- Mrs Harrison, Miss Jones and Miss Kelly.

#### **Communication**

You can email Mrs Halligan directly on the Nursery email account and she will do her best to get back to you within a couple of working days.

acornclass@harefieldinfant.com

#### **Reading**

Library (story) books will continue to come home every Friday. These can be changed on a Friday providing the previous book is returned. This will be a book for you to read and enjoy with your child. We recommend that you read to your child every day and encourage them to look at books independently.

- Who were the characters?
- What did you like about it?

In your child's book bag, you will find a 'Home Reading Book' log. For each book that your child reads, please encourage them to talk about the story with you and draw a picture about the book, for example they could draw a scene from the book or their favourite character. These only need to be simple pictures eg The dog from Kipper or the pig from the pig in the pond. Model to your child how to draw these characters using simple shapes. Ensure they are using their pinching fingers when they are holding their pencil.

#### **Spring Term 1 Learning**

This term we will be learning the following in each subject area.

#### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

This term we will be encouraging the children to be more independent in the nursery environment. Supporting them to help one another with tasks that they cannot do on their own, having a go at putting their own coats on and doing up the fastenings independently, using the toilets and washing their hands and taking on the roles of fruit and milk monitors (helping the adults to tidy away after fruit and milk time).

The children will be starting to have Brain breaks at the end of each Nursery day where they will take time to meditate, breathe and calm down and reflect on the nursery day. This will be followed by our new initiative 'Feel it' which is a programme to help children better understand, express and regulate their feelings, increase self-awareness and build stronger connections with others.

We use a scheme called JIGSAW to deliver weekly PSED lessons. This term we will be learning the topic 'Dreams and Goals' This covers never giving up even when we find something difficult and always trying hard to achieve our goals. How we can encourage one another by saying kind things and supporting each other.

## Communication and Language.

This term we will be focusing on communicating with one another using our words. We will be modelling how to start a conversation and listen to our friend's response continuing to take turns. We will also be modelling how to use a sentence of 4 to 6 words or longer. Your child will be joining in with songs, actions and stories and learning new words of the week which will be displayed in the nursery window. We will be using story language such as first, next, after that and finally as part of our talk for writing scheme. We will also be learning names of different animals and where they live.

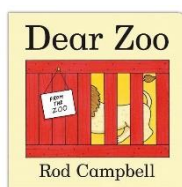
Remember that listening is a huge factor in being able to communicate with one another so please remind your child to put their listening ears on each morning.



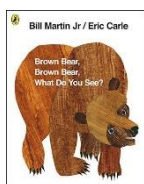
## English

English runs hand in hand with Communication and Language, with all our work being carried out through the use of stories.

Our Key Text for this term are;



Dear Zoo is an interactive lift the flap story book that encourages whole class participation. The children will learn actions to retell the story as well as learning new language such as enormous, fierce, grumpy and perfect. They will be encouraged to re tell the story using the pictures and to make up their own version with different animals and why they sent them back. We will be exploring different animals and facts about them including where they live, what they eat and what noises they make.

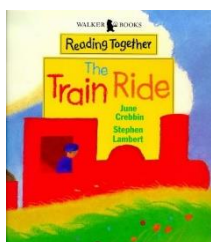


Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see? is a fun repetitive story that explores different animals and colours. Children can easily join in with repeated refrains and use their memory to predict which animal comes next. We will also read Polar Bear, Polar Bear what do you hear? Which explores the sounds the different animals make. We will compare the similarities and differences of the two stories.



"We're going on a bear hunt, we're going to catch a big one!"

This story is always a firm favourite in nursery sparking excitement and adventure both indoors and outdoors. We will be going on our own Bear Hunts as we re-enact the story together. We will also work together to put sounds and actions to the story as well as creating a story map to retell the story using pictures.



The Train Ride follows a young girl and her mum as they go on a journey together. It asks the repeated question "What shall I see, what shall I see?" Children will use the pictures to tell us what they can see on the train journey. They will reflect back on a time when they may of ridden a train. They will build trains using large construction and write train tickets in the writing area. They will plan their own journeys, choosing which country they'd like to visit and thinking about what things they would need to pack.

## Physical Development

Physical development is a hugely important part of your child's development and benefits them in a range of ways. We will be visiting the school hall to take part in group games and using apparatus to balance as well as moving in a range of ways including hopping, skipping, jumping and walking on our tiptoes. We will be continuing our write dance programme which encourages the children to hold their pens with their pinching fingers and move their pens in a variety of ways which will aid them to begin to write letters and draw simple shapes. There are a range of fine motor activities available to the children to explore each day and the children are making their finger muscles stronger by completing cutting activities, practising to write some letters from their names and using playdough.

## Phonics



We are continuing to learn phase 1 phonics this half term and will be focusing on matching sounds we hear from animals, objects and musical instruments, adding sounds to stories and playing instruments in a range of ways to represent different characters and actions eg loud drums for stamping feet, quiet triangles for tiptoeing fairies.

We will then move onto rhyme, alliteration and oral blending and segmenting.

In the summer term we will begin to learn letters and sounds following the Read Write Inc. phonics scheme. More information will be sent out regarding the nearer the time.

## Mathematics

We follow a scheme called White Rose maths to teach children maths every day through short carpet sessions and then have lots of activities set up inside and outside for the children to practice developing what we have taught through their play.

This half terms phase is called 'Alive in 5'.

We will be learning numbers 0-5 and consolidating our knowledge of these numbers by singing songs such as '5 little monkeys jumping on the bed' which counts down from 5 to 0. Matching quantity to the correct numeral, showing the correct amount of fingers from 0-5, ordering and subitising numbers 0-5.

We will also be comparing amounts using the language more than, less than and the same as. To support this learning we will provide opportunities to build towers using blocks and pebbles.

Finally, we will be exploring weight, shape and capacity by using weighing scales and determining which objects are heavier, lighter or the same. Having different sized containers in the sand and water to fill and empty and compare quantity. We will give children opportunities to count how many items it takes to fill a container eg. How many marbles will it take to fill the jar or how many corks to fill the bowl. We will explore writing numerals to 5 and representing our findings using marks eg a tick or a cross.



Look for numbers everywhere you go and point them out to your child, on a bus, your front door at the shops etc. This will help them to begin to recognise numbers.

Number Blocks on BBC is a great programme to support your children understanding of number.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks>

## Understanding the World

We will be delving into this area of the curriculum with our animal topic. The children will be learning lots of new information about the names of different animals, where they live, what they eat and what sounds they make. We will be using encyclopedias and atlas's to help us find information as well informational videos.

We will be exploring how things work by carrying out experiments such as the volcano experiment and using magnets to explore forces and windmills outside on windy days. We will make rain catchers to go in the garden and measure how much rain we have collected and will be planting daffodil bulbs ready for the spring.

We will also celebrate chinese new year with food tasting, dragon dancing and craft activities.



### Expressive Arts and Design



This part of the curriculum will really come to life this term with animal paintings, building small worlds out of construction going on train journeys and playing musical instruments. The children will be learning to explore different materials freely to develop their ideas about how to use them and what to make with support from an adult. To take part in pretend play with others by engaging in our new Safari explorer's area and to develop complex stories using small world equipment. They will go on bear hunts, train rides and arctic expeditions together as well as putting on a show for their friends singing one of their favourite songs and playing musical instruments.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email on the class email account.

Yours faithfully  
Mrs Halligan  
Nursery Manager