

Nursery Newsletter

Topic: **Down on the Farm**

Story: **Dear Farm**

Focus questions for this term:

Week 1 – How do different things grow?

Week 2 – What lives on a farm?

Week 3 – Where could you find a pig, frog etc. How could they get there?

Week 4 – What you could include in a letter to the farm?

Week 5 – What might happen next?

Week 6 – Which tools do we need for this job? Can you show how to use it safely? Can you show a friend how to use it?



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term we will look at showing care and concern towards others and how we can help each other out. We will also have a focus on building self-confidence and friendships, encouraging children to initiate conversations and invite others to join in their play. During discovery time, the adults will facilitate small groups to try and work together to extend and elaborate play ideas and build up a role play.

Communication and Language,

During our focus for this area of learning, we will continue to encourage and support children to use their voice to express their wants, needs, interests and ideas. To work towards this, we constantly try to build up children's vocabulary, understanding and language, on a daily basis. Working on these important communication skills help children to feel less frustrated as they can better articulate their thoughts. This term we are also going to look at using and understanding prepositions (e.g. on, in, under, behind etc....).



Physical Development

In Nursery we are always encouraging children to become more independent when dressing e.g. putting on coat and changing from wellies to shoes, without any adult help. It would be really helpful if parents could let their children practice putting on their shoes and socks at home by themselves. This is great practise for when they move into Reception and move onto the next stage of changing into PE kits independently.



Reading, Writing & Phonics

We will be continuing to develop our Phase 1 phonics skills this term and move on from rhyme, to alliteration. The children will be focusing on listening to the initial sound in words and orally identifying what these are. We will be planning activities such as sorting words according to their initial sound and finding objects with the same initial sound as our names.

The story we will be learning this term is 'Dear Farm', an adaptation of the popular Dear Zoo book. Our version can be found at the bottom of this newsletter.

Maths

In Plum class we like to practise counting every day and encourage the children to count aloud. We also look at number recognition with some of us focusing on recognising numbers 1 to 5 and others practising numbers all the way to 20. We will continue to practise counting objects accurately and using maths language to compare two groups of objects. Linked to the boxes and packages in our story, we will be practising to use positional language and describe the shape of objects.

Understanding the World & Internet safety

Forest School sessions will continue on **Wednesdays**. We are hoping we will be able to start to see some signs of Spring while we are outside and use these to discuss and observe changes in the environment. We will begin the term by looking at Spring and life cycles, sorting animals by habitat and looking more closely at certain animal features. Using links to our farm topic, we will also be matching farm animals' adults to their young and looking at growth and change.

We will discuss the need for staying safe online with the children again, developing their understanding of how to stay safe. We will be looking at stories that will support the children with this and will continue to discuss the need for supervision when on sites such as YouTube.

Expressive Arts & Design

This term we will continue to support children to use their imagination and creative skills through play. We will have a focus on using a variety of construction materials to build and balance as well as constructing enclosures and creating spaces. We will also be looking at and describing the texture of things and using the correct tools for appropriate purposes.

Activities to do at home

- Support your child with becoming independent – can you begin to get dressed without help? Can you put your coat on yourself? Can you put your things on your peg yourself?
- Can you ask your child what story we have been looking at in class? Can they name some of the animals and any adjectives used to describe them? When reading with your child you could ask them to tell you the story using the pictures they can see.
- You can support your child's gross motor skills by doing activities involving their larger muscles: running, climbing, jumping off objects.

On YouTube you can find videos on 'Cosmic Yoga' for children to use as a calming form of exercise or 'GoNoodle' for something more energetic!

- To support the children's fine motor skills, you could do activities such as, drawing and mark making, threading and using playdough.
- To support children in their phonic development, you could play i-spy. Having a focus on listening to and identifying initial sounds.
- Some websites you can visit include:

<https://www.phonicsbloom.com/uk/game/list/phonics-games-phase-1>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html>

www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzUz41TjAmg (I-spy game)

Reminders & dates

Please look out for further information to be given out regarding some of the events below.

Monday 22nd February – Term 4 begins

Thursday 1st April – Last Day of Term 4

Monday 19th April – **Nursery closed to pupils** as staff are on home visits.

Tuesday 20th April – Nursery children start back

New pupils will have staggered starts and be given this information separately.

Dear Farm

One rainy day, in my **lonely** home, I woke up and decided I needed to get a pet to keep me company.

I wrote a letter to the farm and asked them to send me a pet.

First they sent me a **huge, brown cow**. He was far too **large**, so I sent him back.

Next they sent me a **loud, snorting pig**. He was far too **noisy**, so I sent him back.

Then they sent me a **greedy, pecking hen**. He was far too **hungry**, so I sent him back.

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Later that week, they sent me a **square** box. I opened it and saw 1 **wet** nose and 2 **furry** ears. I heard a **tiny** 'woof.'

It was a PUPPY!

"This pet is perfect!" I said and gave him a **big** hug.

Me and my new puppy lived **happily ever after!**

The end.