

Ashleigh Nursery

Newsletter



4th February 2022

This week

We have had a very auspicious week celebrating and learning about Chinese New Year. By coincidence it was The Year of the Tiger, which was lovely having previously had a week of Tiger topic. The children made lanterns, learnt the story of 'The Great Race' - the origin of the 12 animals of the Chinese Zodiac and discovered which year they were born in, according to the Chinese Lunar calendar. Our older children are Roosters (said to be Hardworking and Brave) and our younger ones, Dogs (said to be Loyal, honest and sincere).

The children showed us what they learnt by answering questions in their teams for our Chinese New Year quiz. Perhaps you can ask them questions at home too? What colour are the decorations? (red) What is gifted in the red envelopes? (money) What animals won the race? (The rat!). They may also like to tell you about popular foods in China, how big the country is, how many people live there, what the land looks like. They were particularly fascinated by a picture of a rice farmer picking rice in a paddy field.

Our focus this week was on Team Work, and we played matching pairs (Chinese zodiac animals of course!) practised our Phonics learning, about Rhyming words, in small groups and even did our maths estimation activities in small groups. The children were great at including each-other.

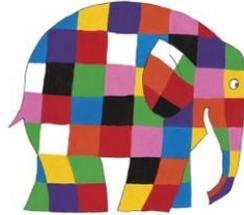
Our word of the week 'Celebration' weaved its way through our week, with a particular highlight being making special celebration food- Pastry Puffs. The children were excellent at following instructions and all enjoyed making this special food. The Nursery staff did such a good job of cooking the pastries and matching them to the right children that they were given a round of applause!

We played a 'rolling the ball' talking game, where the children described their next birthday wish. Lots of 'family time', 'special cakes' and 'visits to the park and the beach' were discussed.

Building on last week's numeracy input on 'Estimating', we have been thinking about other things that we can guess. How long would it take to walk around the room? How many hops can you do in 30 seconds? How tall are we in 'counting noodles'? The children guessed then we used timers and measuring methods to find the actual answers.

Next Week

We are excited to be centring our learning on the colourful patchwork elephant 'Elmer'. We will learn about Elmer and his friends, how each are special and unique, just like the children themselves. We will be giving one of our school elephant sculptures a new colourful painted skin, making collaborative colourful elephants, designing our own and learning about patterns and shapes.



Special dress up day!

On **Wednesday** we will be wearing the brightest / most patterned clothes we can find! If your child would like to join in please help them pick very bright / patterned clothes to wear!

Next week we are continuing thinking about Pattern and shape. We will think about what makes a pattern and practising our pencil control drawing around shapes, as well as naming them.

Next week, in our phonics sessions, we will continue thinking about rhythm and rhyme. We will be learning elephant related songs – The Elmer song and Nellie the Elephant!

Our word of the week will be 'Enormous'. We will think about how we compare animals to decide on which is enormous. We will think of other words that we use that mean the same or similar – giant, huge etc.

Ashleigh Guiding stars

The children are very good at nominating themselves and each-other for Golden Tickets. We continue to talk about 'Star Behaviour' and the children like seeing their name labels placed on the Ashleigh stars.

Book of the week

Elmer books – David McKee
Freddie and the Fairy – Julia Donaldson

Home learning

In the event your child needs to isolate, the Learning links at home section below, will help with continuity of curriculum.

Learning links at home

In the event your child needs to isolate, these ideas will help with continuity of curriculum.

Think about our school motto – All Different, All Equal, All Learning.

Talk about what makes everyone special and different, and discuss how we are all equal to one another.

Watch Elmer being read on the Internet. There have been 39 Elmer stories published since 1989, and many are read aloud online.

Our book this week 'Freddie and the Fairy' is also an excellent first introduction to sensory differences. The fairy wears a hearing aid and the book explores the theme in a gentle way.

Sort through the washing and talk about colours. Talk about patterns too. Make sure you dress up bright on Wednesday!

Learn the Elmer the Elephant song
(The tune is I can sing a rainbow...)

Young and old and tall and short,
Large and small, coloured and grey.
All of different sizes, different sizes,
But all love to play

See the elephants, see the elephants,
A patchwork one you will see.
Lots of different colours, different colours,
Colourful is he.

Yellow, turquoise and pink is he,
Purple and orange and green.
Elmer the elephant, the elephant,
Is the one you've seen.
See the elephants, see the elephants,
A patchwork one you will see.
Lots of different colours, different colours,
Colourful is he.

Continue noticing and congratulating children when they shine like Ashleigh Stars. They are getting used to and are very interested in our new Guiding Stars and will love to tell you all about it:

Being safe, Being kind, Trying your best and now Team Work!
Stars shine brighter when they are with others.

Please also see the main school newsletter for important dates.