



Little Gems Class Newsletter

Working together to

inspire nurture empower

Spring 2– February 2026

Welcome Back & Updates

Hello Little Gems Families and welcome back after the half term!

This half term we are doing the story 'Dear Zoo'.

Just a reminder that if you have any updates or changes with regards to your child (no matter how big or small!), please inform us as soon as possible, either in their school diary, ring the school if you need to speak to someone or email me at ruby.rogers@ivy.set.org.

Dear Zoo



Rod Campbell

Key Concepts and Skills

In Little Gems Class, we follow the Early Years Framework which has 7 subject areas, Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED), Literacy, Maths (Cognition), Expressive Arts and Understanding the World. Your children will experience a wide variety of lessons and activities which cover these areas. This half term, our topic is "Sing a Rainbow". Our main focus is on building relationships with our pupils to ensure they can achieve their potential. **Please remember to look at Evidence for Learning to see what your child is learning at school!**

Reminders / additional information



If it is appropriate for your child to have snack, please use our ParentPay app to pay for it. We have a range of snack options, including yoghurts, crisps, biscuits and juice.

This half term our hydro days are **Monday** and **Thursday** but please send in your child's kit at the beginning of the week as we may take them in whenever there is a space, please include a costume/trunks, 2 towels and some body wash/shampoo. Please remember to send in a change of clothes for your child each day, thank you.



Cognition and Maths

For Cognition you could create a "zoo basket" with:

- Faux fur (lion)
- Wrinkly fabric (elephant skin)
- Feathers (parrot)
- Spray bottle mist (rainforest animals)



PSED



Intensive Interaction Zoo Play

Copy the child's sounds or movements.

Add an animal theme (e.g., if they hum, say "Hmmm like a bear!").

Focus on shared attention and connection.



Communication

For Communication you could read the story massage on the next page.

Story massage promotes calmness and emotional regulation. You can pause while reading the story and see if your child would like 'more'.

Expressive Arts

Animal Mark Making

- Use animal footprints dipped in paint.
- Stamp patterns on large paper.
- Focus on the sensory experience rather than the product.

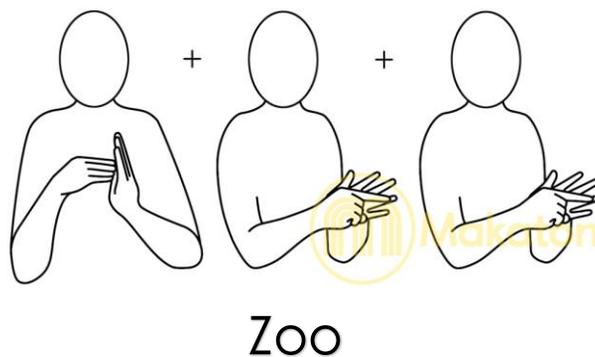


Literacy

On a Monday morning we visit our onsite train library, where your child will choose a book to take home that week and read at home. Please return your child's book bag, reading log and library book every Monday and will swap it.



Makaton Signs



Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell
 (to be used alongside the book)
 Adapted for the Story Massage Programme
www.storymassage.co.uk

	I wrote to the Zoo to send me a pet.
	So they sent me an... Elephant He was too big, I sent him back.
	So they sent me a... Giraffe He was too tall, I sent him back.
	So they sent me a... Lion He was too fierce, I sent him back.
	So they sent me a....Camel He was too grumpy, I sent him back.
	So they sent me a.....Snake He was too scary, I sent him back.
	So they sent me a.... Monkey He was too naughty, I sent him back.
	So they sent me a... Frog He was too jumpy, I sent him back.
	So they thought very hard, and sent me a.... Puppy.
	He was perfect, I kept him.