



Sycamore Class Newsletter

Welcome back to all parents and carers!

We are delighted to welcome you back to the **Summer Term** where we are busy planning lots of exciting activities for the children. It is lovely to be able to have some new friends that have moved up from Saplings this term. We are sure the older children are going to love showing them round and looking after them. We think they are going to be brilliant role-models!



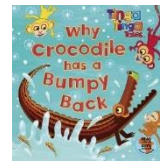
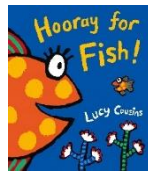
The Curriculum



We will be expecting some exciting additional visitors... some tiny caterpillars and then some duckling eggs after half-term, which arrive in an incubator. The children can observe how they hatch and grow before returned to the farm as ducklings!

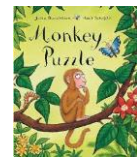
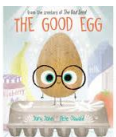
We are really looking forward to learning about their life-cycles. We will be reading lots of books, both fiction and non-fiction, to learn more about the life-cycle of a butterfly and duck, as well as how to sort, classify and identify a range of minibeasts.

The first half of our term will be the topic **Splish Splash!** The children will be thinking, talking and learning about oceans, ponds and rivers in particular. The **core books** will include:



Hooray for Fish, Somebody Swallowed Stanley, Why Crocodile has a Bumpy Back, Clean up!

After half term the topic will be **Growing and Changing**. For **traditional tales** we will be reading **Jack and the Beanstalk** as well as exploring different versions of this well-loved story.



We will also be reading:

The Good egg, The Odd Egg, The Hungry Caterpillar, Bee and Me, Everywhere Bear, Monkey Puzzle, We're Going on a Bear Hunt.

We will be celebrating **World Bee Day** on **20th May** and learn how wonderful and important bees are to nature.



During the term we will be encouraging the children to work collaboratively, problem solve and bring their own individual skills together to create something wonderful as a team. We will also be using props and puppets to re-enact the stories in different ways, as well as using the oral storytelling approach of **Helicopter Stories** for the children to make up their own stories.

We will be developing **Maths** and **Number** skills by looking at maths for a purpose in counting books, number hunts, measuring when building and cooking, learning number rhymes etc.



We will be continuing to learn our '**Rhyme of the Week**' where the children learn different rhymes each week. We have attached these so you can include the whole family in singing and enjoying them at home.

- *Incy Winsy Spider*
- *There's a Little Caterpillar on a leaf*
- *Old McDonald Had a Farm*
- *Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush*
- *Teddy bear turn around*
- *Row Row Row the boat*
- *Once I caught a fish alive*
- *Tiny Turtle*
- *Here we go round the Mulberry Bush*
- *Round and round the garden*
- *5 Little Ducks*
- *5 Fat Peas*
- *I'm a Little teapot*
- *Jack & Jill*



We will also be singing and learning lots of **ring games** outside to encourage whole group togetherness. Combining music and movement is a powerful learning tool and a lovely way to inspire the children to work and play together eg. *Ring-a-ring-of-roses, Sandy Child, Bears like Honey, Here we go round the Mulberry Bush, Dingle Dangle Scarecrow, Fuzzy buzzy Bumble Bee, Rainbow song, Pitter Patter on my Shoulder* etc.



We continue to learn about the **changing seasons** and how moving from **Spring** to **Summer** brings a range of weather from wind to rain to sunshine. We will encourage the children to talk about the weather and temperature and to be independent in their thinking ie. if they need coats on, wellies etc. Please ensure your child is equipped with the right clothing so that they are *always* able to be outside... it is very changeable these days so it's a good idea to check the weather the night before!



For **Bear Week** on **6th July**, the children will be invited to bring in a teddy bear (or soft toy) from home to share their Nursery experiences with. This could be a bear obstacle course, bear storytelling, feeding the bears in the home corner, building homes/ beds for the bears with blocks etc. We will also be reading books such as **We're Going on a Bear Hunt, This is the bear, The Everywhere Bear**. On **Thursday 16th July** the whole school will have a **Teddy Bear's Picnic** up in Sycamore class garden, where parents and carers are invited to join. If you can bring some healthy snacks for the picnic that would also be great (please nothing that contains NUTS!).



Within all these plans, it is also very important to us that we follow the children's interests, seeking out what they are motivated and inspired by so that we can fully engage them in their learning.

Emotional well-being

As always we will continue to support children with their emotional regulation, labelling their emotions and helping them to talk about how they feel and strategies to help them. We will use lots of positive reinforcement and encouragement to reinforce this. Please see our **Positive Behaviour Policy** for more information on the approaches we use (available on our website).

Transitions

We will be planning lots of transitions activities after half-term, for the children leaving Nursery in July. We will inform you of these nearer the time but may involve visiting their new schools, inviting staff from school to visit the children here at Nursery, reading stories about growing and changing etc.



Fruit time

Thank you for your kind donations so far this year. Please continue to donate if you can as the children greatly benefit from fresh and fruit and vegetables each day, in addition to the fruit that the school provides at breakfast, lunch and tea. It is a lovely sociable activity for the children to sit together and share snacks.

Parent workshops

- **Bring your dad to Nursery** – dads (or grandads/ uncles) can come and join the fun and get busy in Saplings.
- **Den building workshops** for all the family.

Please also look out for the **Bright Start bulletin**. They offer wonderful free workshops to families. You can register online if you haven't already done so to be kept up to date.

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FAMILY

We hope you have been enjoying seeing the photos of your children at nursery and reading the observations made by staff. We love receiving photos of your children from home too.



Attendance and punctuality

Thank you for your continued efforts to be here and collect on time! It makes a great difference to your child's day, in terms of their learning and well-being when they start and end the day on time.

We look forward to a fun, exciting and inspiring term ahead!