



Seedlings & Saplings Newsletter

Welcome back to all our families and a very Happy New Year!

It is lovely to see all our children back after the holidays and so well settled already, as well as welcoming our new children into Sycamore class.

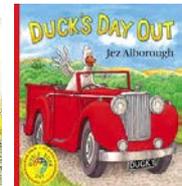
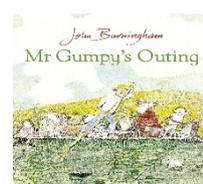
The Curriculum



We are starting the term off by reminding children about **routines of the day** and introducing these to our new children. We are also encouraging the children to develop their **independence** by taking their coats and hats on and off, feeding themselves with cutlery (including using a knife to cut their own food), perhaps learning to use the toilet and being able to ask adults for help when they need it. Every term we have **core books** that we introduce to the children and themes that we like to follow. However we also want to follow the children's interests and sometimes our learning takes us in a wonderful new direction!

This term we are focusing our learning around the exciting topic of

TRANSPORT!



We will start the term with the humorous books about **Duck** by **Jez Alborough** and then the beautifully illustrated **Mr Gumpy** books by **John Burningham**, We will use these books to learn about different types of transport, including boats, exploring floating and sinking etc. We will use props to re-enact and role-play the stories and look at **non-fiction books** to find more about all transport.

As part of **Lunar New Year**, celebrated on **17th February** (during half-term), the children will be learning about the **Great Animal Race** which created the Chinese Zodiac, as well as different ways this exciting festival is celebrated around the world. This is the **Year of the Horse** so we will be learning all things horse too! If you would like to come in and help cook some special dishes with the children to celebrate, we would love to have you!



We will also be learning about the changing seasons and how things freeze and melt in **Winter** as well as how it begins to get lighter, brighter and warmer as we move into **Spring**. The children love exploring and experimenting with the ice during those cold days!



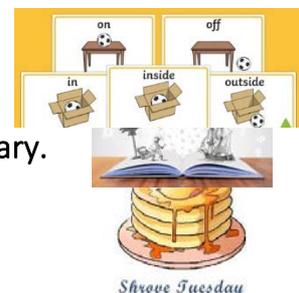
We will be continuing to learn our '**Rhyme of the Week**' where the children learn a different rhyme each week. We have attached these rhymes so you can enjoy them at home too.

The children will also be learning about positional language, having fun with moving objects under, next to, on top of, behind, inside etc. You can have fun with this at home too.

Pancake Day

We will be celebrating **Pancake Day** with the children the week before on **9th February**.

National Storytelling week



We are excited to be celebrating **National Storytelling week 2nd-6th February**. If there are any parents/ carers who would like to come in and read with the children or orally tell stories – in any language and from any culture, we would really love to have you! Please also let us know if you know of any authors that may like to come and read their stories with the children.



Fruit time

Thank you for your kind donations last term. The children were lucky enough to taste a wonderful range of fruit and vegetables thanks to your donations. Please continue to donate if you can as the children greatly benefit from additional fresh and fruit each day. **Please note that this is optional.**

Parent workshops

Please see attached **Diary Dates**.



Gardening Club

Our lovely lead parent gardening volunteer is no longer able to help out with our wonderful garden. We are looking for new volunteer gardeners who would like to come in and help us. If you would be interested in helping, please let us know. We would like to continue to grow fresh herbs, fruit and vegetables in our growing garden. Last year the children picked potatoes, pumpkins, tomatoes, radishes and onions they had planted earlier on the year. Any gardening experience is welcome.

FAMILY



Please do check on FAMILY for observations on your child. If you would like to message staff please continue to contact **via phone or email**, as staff are unable to check FAMILY for this use. If you require help accessing the app, please see your child's key person. Please also do send photos of your child at home or out and about, as they love to show what they have been getting up to when they're not at school! It is a great communication opportunity.

Attendance and punctuality



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

Clothing

Please do check the weather apps before sending your child into school each day. If it is raining, they will need appropriate footwear and coats (preferably with a hood). We have spare wellies at school or you can bring in your child's wellies and leave them here, or take them home each day of easier. We also accept donations of wellies no longer needed, to add to our spare welly collection!

Please also **label ALL** your child's hats, coats, scarves, boots and gloves so that we can ensure they take them home each day too.



Thank you!

We look forward to another exciting term ahead!

