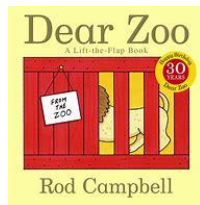
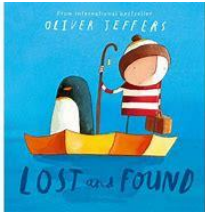




Beech Newsletter

January 2025

We have started the new year off with a great topic which the children are already really enjoying. We are looking at Animals and basing our activities on the focus books below, beginning with ice and the animals who live in frozen environments.



During this half term we will be looking at the animals in the books, learning about their environment and how we can look after the animals around the world. As we go through Winter, we will be learning about hibernating animals as well as helping our local animals through winter. We will also be taking part in Bird Watch and making bird feeders as well as recognising the year of the snake for Chinese New Year.

In **Maths** this half term the **Reception** children will be subitising to 5, knowing one more to 5, learning about 6&7, comparison and length, height and time. **Nursery** will continue subitising to 3, numbers to 3, using shapes, counting to 5 and comparing.

In **Phonics**, **Reception** children have progressed onto learning digraphs (2 letters making 1 sound), for example ea, ie, oo, and an odd trigraph such as the igh sound. We will continue to send home a review sheet each week for you to spend some time with your child recapping the new sounds. **Nursery** children will continue to focus on hearing sounds, rhymes and oral blending. This sets the foundations for learning phonics when they move into Reception.

Reception children will continue to bring their **Reading** books home with them. They will have read these books in school already so should be able to read them with some confidence. The children will continue to read their reading book three times a week in class and then sent home on a Wednesday. Books will be changed again on a Monday. In class the sessions focus on decoding, prosody (expression) and comprehension.

PE sessions will continue on a Friday. Please send your child in PE kit on these days. This half term we will be learning about gymnastics in the Small Hall.

Topic

When looking at Animals, the children will incorporate **Geography** as we find different environments on a map of the world and Google Earth. Reception will be applying their phonic skills to make captions and label pictures, and we will be focusing on enjoying non-fiction books and learning how they differ from story books.



There will be lots of opportunities for the children to print and create in this topic. We look at camouflage and the different patterns of animal's skin. We will have the opportunity to make different animals and give the children chance to use their own 'flare'.

In **Science** the children look at winter and what is happening outside, noticing changes in matter. We will compare this with what we saw in Autumn and predict what will happen in spring. The children think about what clothes they need to wear to go outside and why they need to wear them.

PHSE

Dreams and Goals is the title for this half term. We think about what we would like to achieve and how we can get there.

Messages

Homework will be sent out as a challenge sheet for the children to pick from throughout the ½ term. A **phonics review sheet** will be sent home on a Friday to consolidate the weeks learning. Any comments can be shared in the learning journal or on Tapestry.

This half term has **Chinese New Year** so we will celebrate the Year of the Snake

The last week of term we would love you to bring your (suitable) **pet in to school!** Please speak to me or email to arrange a day and time.

Come and see us! We will be open for visiting parents on Thursday 6th February at 2:30pm. This is 30 mins before the rest of school is open so you can come and see us first to look at how we learn before visiting other siblings. This session will have a maths focus.