



## ROWAN GATE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER EASTER 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and exciting term at Rowan Gate Primary School, despite the challenges of the Pandemic. It has been wonderful to welcome the vast majority of our children back at school after another lockdown.

We have continued to work hard on our curriculum and assessment, and many pupils have achieved awards for one or more of The Five Keys. The Five Keys are the basic principles on which our school is built and the ways in which we encourage the children to learn and develop as independent, resilient young people. Their achievements are celebrated and recognised when they are presented with The Five Keys wristbands.

Many of our children have spent some time learning from home this term, and I would like to thank you all for the support and engagement you have shown in this process. It has been a very difficult period, but our pupils have returned to school well, and quickly settled back into the familiar routines of classroom life.

Our thoughts remain with the family of Mrs Sandra Hurst, our colleague and friend who died suddenly in January. Mr Hurst has presented us with money raised at Sandra's funeral, and we will buy something for her class to enjoy.

I am delighted to tell you that our colleague, Michele, who was critically ill with Covid-19 has returned home after 112 days in hospital. She has shown tremendous determination and strength, and is on the road to recovery with her family.

The success of our school is testament to the tireless dedication and hard work of each and every one of our staff and Governors. I would like to thank them all for their work and positivity during the term.

I wish you all a very happy Easter and hope that we are able to enjoy some warm spring sunshine!

I will look forward to seeing all the children again on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.

Yours sincerely

**Headteacher**

## Bananas Class

Bananas class have been busy exploring the topics 'What's the weather like today?' and 'Nursery Rhymes'. We focused on different themes each week, including 'Arctic Animals', 'Winter Warmers', 'Five Currant Buns' and 'Wind the bobbin up'.



We have enjoyed exploring sensory tuff trays and tabletop display relating to our themes. These have included ice and snow, paint, shaving foam and dry materials such as cereal and rice. We have used different tools to mark make within the media and manipulated tools, such as scoops and utensils, for different purposes.



We have shared many stories, taking turns to engage with sensory props and communication aids such as switches. These stories included 'Crow in the Snow' and 'Ten in a Sled'. We even enjoyed the snowfall at school and made marks in the snow using our bodies. We also made icy nature decorations, leaving them outside overnight to freeze.



We have enjoyed lots of practical activities involving number, shape and space. We've explored posting amounts of snowballs down ramps and feeding Mr Penguin different shapes and numerals. We have also explored measure in cooking, as well as filling and emptying containers in water play and practicing our fine motor skills with threading.



We have experienced lots of different nursery rhymes, engaging with each other to join in with actions, move our bodies to the music or change the rhyme using symbols and props. We have also had lots of fun being imaginative and creative, particularly in the role play area exploring the bakery and farm shop. We also enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year and Pancake Day!

## Apricots class

We have had lots of fun during our Winter topic, taking part in lots of practical activities which we have all enjoyed.

In maths we have explored number, shape and measure. We have experienced filling and emptying containers using ice, snow and water and used the large balance scales. We have explored themed playdough, using shaped cutters and manipulating it with our hands. Some of us have been sorting different animals into two groups and we have also been exploring the temperature of different materials and liquids.



In literacy we have listened to many themed stories such as, 'The Gruffalo's Child', 'One Snowy Night' and '10 on a sled'. We are still continuing our mark making in different materials such as icing sugar, cornflour and snow cloud dough. We have also been using chalk, pens and paint to create marks too. We love our weekly dough disco sessions and these have been helping us build our hand strength for mark making.



We have had lots of fun during our art and design sessions. We've painted with ice, painted on snow, created pictures with wellington boots and paint, we built an igloo for the arctic animals and made icicles. There have been lots of fun tuff tray exploration activities set up which we have taken part in too, we especially loved when it snowed and we brought some of it in to paint! Weekly music sessions have been lots of fun, practicing stopping and starting using instruments and we have taken part in lots of sunshine circle sessions.



When it snowed we all went straight outside to play in the snow. We made snowmen, spray painted the snow and ran around-it was great! We have also made wind streamers to play with outside when it's windy.



# Apples Class



Apples have been enjoying being at school and have enjoyed having the whole class back together. We have continued to work on our number recognition and counting. We been practicing our listening skills by matching the animal sounds.



Our topic has been 'Are eggs alive?'. This is proving to be very interesting and the children have enjoyed the variety of creative lessons attached to it. Apples are working very well together and should be very proud of themselves.



## Lemons Class

It has certainly been an interesting term with a combination of remote learning and more recently everyone back into school. It was fantastic to welcome everyone back! With the weather improving and the daylight hours increasing this spring term seems to have gone so fast for Lemons Class!

Our topic for this term has meant we have had the chance to look at many different aspects of 'Remembering When We Were Small!' We have really enjoyed looking at how we have changed since we were a baby and what we now enjoy such as our favourite foods.



In Maths there has been so much progress - becoming more confident when working with numbers and shapes and using these in so many different areas of the subject.



Another area of excellent progress this term has been in writing where letter formation and understanding of letter sounds and reading has excelled.



We have had an 'interesting' term and all the children have achieved so much and adapted fantastically to the changing environment. Well Done Lemons Class!

## Oranges Class

We have had lots of fun upon returning to Oranges Class recently! We have been working hard on developing our Maths and English skills, including practising our phonics skills and learning about new sounds, exploring poetry and non-fiction books and measuring weight.



We have also had fun developing our communication and interaction skills in drama and have enjoyed games such as 'Hairy Fred', mimicking emotions and making different sounds and body percussion.



As part of our theme for learning 'Are Eggs Alive?' we have been learning about different types of animals that lay eggs. We also did some 'eggciting' investigations and had lots of fun with our own 'egg drop', whereby we tested parachutes we had made for our own egg characters.



## Pineapples Spring newsletter

So much has happened since our last newsletter but at last there is a light at the end of the tunnel. All of Pineapples children worked so hard during the latest lockdown. The children working from home embraced the experience and made the staff very proud in well they all adapted. We had some really fun sessions so a big thank you to all the parents that made that happen. 😊 The children working at school also adapted well, working without their peers....and now we are back together again.

It has been a busy term. We have been looking at the topics of "Do you remember being small?" and "Are eggs alive?" The topics made us think about when we were babies and our latest topic has focused on life cycles of plants and animals. In our English work we have been looking at rhyming stories, stories with familiar settings, non-fiction and we celebrated World book day. In Maths we have looked at measuring, number and capacity. We have all loved the water tray!

At the end of our memories topic we had a Pirate themed day. This was a whole day of fun dressing up as pirates, going on treasure hunts, decorating treasure chests and making treasure maps.

World book day was another themed day that we have enjoyed recently, dressing up as characters and sharing our favourite books together.

We have continued with our weekly interaction sessions, both online and in school. We have all joined in with group cooking, Tac Pac, sunshine circle and story massage sessions. There has also been some lovely dance/action song sessions and a lot of smiley faces.



# Limes Spring



We have had a challenging start to the new year with learning at home and attending online circle times. We are immensely proud of the way the children have adapted to the changes and how you as parents have been so incredibly supportive of everything we have put in place to bring education and learning to the children in Limes Class. The best day has to have been when everyone was finally welcomed back to school and the children smiled and greeted their friends and familiar adults. The children have continued to flourish and learn through these ever-changing times and have embraced learning opportunities this term to include....

Our Superhero topic has involved us sailing around the sea with Ellen MacArthur visiting Antarctica, making animals from this region, South America, creating forests and the little town of Falmouth, Cornwall where we waved flags we made. Along the way we met Paralympians with Super Sport Hero Powers including Mari Akhurtst, dressage, Tanni Grey-Thompson, cycling and Rosie Reed, dog sports the children thought of things to find out about them and used their voices and switches to ask questions.



In Science we explored electricity and forces. We used torches which we found out needed batteries to work, to light up items we were trying to find and we tried using different forces to move objects. This included pushing toy vehicles across different surfaces to experience friction and cooking using forces as we kneaded, poked and stirred our ingredients.

We considered our physical health in PSHE and have been finding ways to keep fit and healthy through exercise and movement, noticing our heart beat, pulse and the changes on our body as we move.



We explored images on the computer and tablets during computing lessons and explored places around the world by manipulating a mouse and tool bar to find countries and things of interest to us.



During English lessons we have followed instructions to create Superhero backpacks, Superhero arm cuffs and to bake cakes. We have also explored dictionaries to find out what things are listed in alphabetical order and found some new and unusual items and words. We continue to practise reading our school reading books and learning our phonics.

This term we practised our number skills by adding and subtracting items, recognising and using money in our class shop and exploring 2D and 3D shapes and their properties. We have continued to practice our recognition of numbers, considered time through daily routines and experiences and used



measures to weigh items, decide which is the biggest or smallest and through measuring liquids including water and milk for our baking.

We have used our outdoor space to take part in PE lessons to practise striking and fielding games, our ability to control bats, sticks and balls has developed well. We have also used dance and dance routines during our PE time indoors and outside.

RE involved us thinking about Why Muhammad is important to Muslims? We looked at different artefacts, buildings and explored song, verse and prayer. We celebrated Mothering Sunday with a card and gift for our Mummy's and we are looking at festivals we celebrate at Spring time and the Easter Story.

Wishing you a well over the Easter Break, Limes Staff  
Donna (CT) Beth (TA) Sharon (TA)

## Strawberries Class Spring Newsletter

Strawberries Class have had a very busy time this term. Some of the children have been joining the class online for stories and singing sessions. Each of the children and their families expressed where they would like to visit, so each of the children had a special story session. We went to the Museum, Seaside, London, On a Bear Hunt (walk in the woods) and a story about mending a leak in the loft! We were busy and had a lot of fun.

During the first part of the Spring term our Topic work was about Chocolate! We had a story about a very unusual box of chocolates at a birthday party. Each of the chocolates were filled with.... Smelly cheese, fish, frog spawn and a crunchy grasshopper just to name a few! The children and adults were very surprised when each of the chocolates were revealed.



The children love cooking sessions where they use different equipment to combine the mixture and the end result smells wonderful. We have made Shirley's famous chocolate cake, chocolate coated Hobnobs, rocky road and chocolate Brownies.

We have created our own chocolates with some favourite fillings of our own.

This term we have had the story 'Room on the Broom' by Julia Donaldson. We have explored different animals and even taken a ride on a broomstick!

We have looked how Easter is celebrated around the world and made Austrian Easter bread, German Easter tree decorating, and explored different animals and Easter traditions in this country including tasting a few chocolate eggs and hot cross buns.

We have also been very busy with our number work, we love singing number songs and using different ways to communicate to ask for activities especially using PECs and signing.

We wish everyone a safe and Happy Easter holiday.

From Strawberries Children and Staff.

## Blackberries Class – Spring 2021 Newsletter

The Spring term has been a SUPER time for Blackberries class.

We have been very busy and have taken part in lots of exciting activities linked to our topic of Superheroes.

In English, we've explored our topic of superheroes in a variety of styles such as scripts, instructions, reports and a range of fiction. We've also all been practicing our phonics skills in weekly lessons and daily key skills activities.



This term our main creative focus has been all about Superheroes. We have explored superheroes in the fictional universe as well as recognising superheroes that are all around us!



In Maths we have completed topics such as Number, Subtraction and Addition, Time, Data and Measure. We have enjoyed being hands on in activities such as weighing or measuring different items, exploring number in and out of the classroom and lots more.



A lot of the class have had time to explore learning and lessons from home! Children, parents and staff have all participated to make this venture as successful as possible!



We have all had a great term in Blackberries and the children have achieved so much!

Well done Blackberries class!



## Cherries Newsletter

This term we have loved learning about Superheroes!!

We enjoyed exploring and expanding our Locational Knowledge by following Ellen MacArthurs journey sailing around the world! We explored all the different the continents she passed on the way and used our skills to create lots of artistic items.

We have been learning about the Lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national & international achievements. This included nurse Florence Nightingale, Police Officer Sir Robert Peel, Firefighters from the Great Fire of London and many more!



In science we have enjoyed learning about Electricity and then Forces and Magnets!! We enjoyed looking at what uses batteries and electric as well as creating our own working circuit. We looked at where electricity comes from, how it can be used and how to keep safe.



We have participated in different activities to support us when finding out why Muhammed is important to Muslims in RE and then explored Spiritual Art through lots of different ways.

We have used nature, clay, colouring pencils, paint and printing.

In PSHE we have had a look at rules in different environments including home, school, playground, crossing the road and many more as well as why rules are important. We have enjoyed exploring different ways to exercise in school and at home through our topic of Healthy Exercise.



## Grapes Newsletter: Spring Term



This term we have found out all about the 'Rainforest'. First, we looked at what a rainforest is and how it has different layers. We discovered lots of new animals and what it might be like to live in a rainforest. We made a salt dough world to help us locate the rainforests. Next, we found out who lives in the rainforest and made some tribal head dresses and masks. We then made musical instruments and played rainforest music. Then we found out about the ancient

Mayans and some of their customs. We had a go at weaving and made hot chocolate drinks that's have evolved from the Mayan's.

In RE the topics are called 'People of Faith, Courage and Commitment' we looked at those who have achieved great things like the Queen and Stephen Hawkins. In 'How is



Easter celebrated around the world' the children have made Easter bilbies and painted and rolled eggs and much more!

In PSHE the topics are 'Taking Responsibility' and 'Getting on and falling out. They have

combined ideas to make an excellent class newspaper.



The science topic has been 'Animals and Living Things/Evolution and Inheritance' We have enjoyed looking at different animals and how they survive. We also learnt how to better look after the environment and that animals can die out or become extinct sometimes.

In Computing we have all been getting very good at teams. We have enjoyed playing maths games and have been learning how to take images in class.



Our PE lessons happened both using our 'Five a day' and some of our play sessions.



We have had lots of great



Numeracy learning. We have practised our counting and calculations. We have learnt more about 2d and 3d shapes. We

have also covered money and time for the first time this year.



In English we have had a range of stories set in rainforests. We have also studied the stories of other cultures, such as 'Rainforest Explorers' and 'Wombat Stew'. These stories are with a message and moral.

The children and staff in Grapes have worked very hard and we have all had to get used to working in different ways. Thank you for the excellent support from parents especially if your child has been home learning.

We wish you an excellent Easter and we look forward to seeing everyone again soon.

## Plums - Spring Term Newsletter.

We have had the opportunity to welcome all the children back to Plums Class this term. We have missed them greatly and are glad to have them back. We have also had the opportunity to welcome a new child to our class.

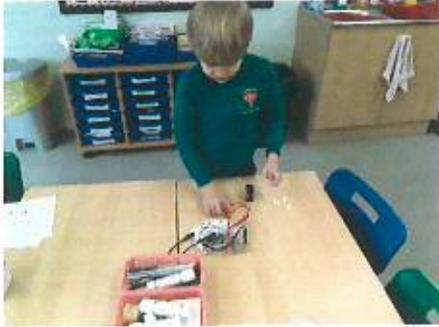
In English, we have explored writing reports and dialogues. The children enjoyed creating their own weather reports. The children also had the chance to present their reports to the class.



In maths, the children have done work on measuring, addition, subtraction and time. The children have worked really hard using pictures and objects to find half and double of a number. The children did some great work with number lines when we looked at subtraction.



We looked at electricity in science. The children in school loved building their own circuits, and the online learners did a great job drawing their own circuits!



In creative curriculum, our theme has been superheroes and the children loved creating their own Arctic environment.



Thank you for all your continued support this year. We are looking forward to all the activities we have planned with the children.

## Peaches class

This term we have done lots of learning at school and some children have been engaged in remote learning.

In Science we have been learning all about evolution and inheritance. The children have explored how animals have adapted to their environment such as the Arctic and The Rainforest. We have looked at nocturnal and diurnal animals and how litter and pollution can affect their habitat. The children really enjoyed making fossils when learning about extinct animals and using role-play and stories to understand why some animals are endangered.

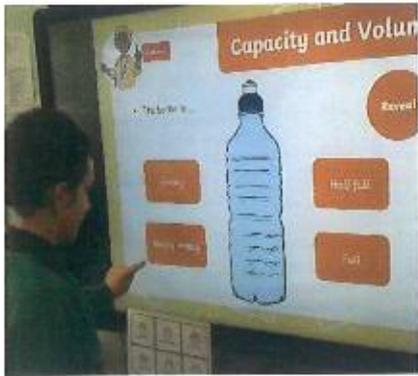
Our topic this term has been Rainforests and we have learnt about what a rainforest looks like, what animals live there and what foods originate there. The children have built their own rainforest display over the weeks, using collage, printing, model making and computer skills. They made rainforest cookies, baskets and headdresses that would be worn by tribes' people.

Our RE topic has looked at inspirational individuals and the children particularly enjoyed finding out about Stephen Hawking, Mother Theresa and Stephen Wilshire. They did some fantastic art work and wrote reasons why they thought they were special.

In PSHE we have talked about getting on and falling out. The children have thought about what makes them feel angry and what they can do to make themselves feel better.

In Maths we have completed lots of practical number activities, measuring using objects such as cubes and a ruler and work on money and time. In English we have read lots of stories linked to our topic work of rainforests and also our science topic. The children have been developing their phonic and comprehension skills and doing lots of practice with their handwriting.

Have a wonderful Easter.



## Pears Class

This term has been a very different time for us all, with some time working in school and some time working online and at home. But all of the children have been brilliant throughout and have worked super hard, making us all very proud.

Our theme this term has been 'Rainforests' and the children have done some amazing work related to this. They have been finding out all about the Rainforest, the types of trees and plants that grow in it, the different animals that live in it, and why Rainforests are so important to us all.



We have designed and made a range of Rainforest animals in art and design lessons, as well as making our own Rainmaker instruments.



Alongside our theme work, all of the children in Pears class have been working super hard on their Maths, English and other subject work. In English we have read a range of stories about the rainforest and the animals that live in them, developing our writing skills, and acting out some great role play when doing the story of Noah's Ark in Drama. In Maths everyone has continued to develop their skills in counting upto and beyond 20, and have done some great work using addition, subtraction, data, time and shapes.



In computing everyone enjoyed learning about programming Bee Bots and using remote control cars.



We wish everyone in Pears class and all their families a very safe and happy Easter and hope the sun shines for us to relax and have fun in!

## Bananas Class

Bananas class have been enjoying the topic of Nursery Rhymes this term. The children have learnt many new rhymes including 1,2,3,4,5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive and Row, Row, Row Your Boat. We have enjoyed making a class bus and singing The Wheels on the Bus joining in with all of the actions



We have made boats from junk materials and floated them in the water...



and we have gone fishing to see what we could catch!



All of the children have enjoyed being back at school and we are looking forward to the Summer term with warmer weather and lots more to learn and new activities to explore.

## Apples Class

Apples class have been having lots of fun this term. Our topic is Nursery Rhymes and we used boxes to make boats for Row Row Row your boat. We made a bus in class using our chairs for Wheels on the bus and enjoyed fishing using the water tray for 1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive. We have also enjoyed a weekly walk to the park.



We hope you all have a safe and happy Easter break with your families.

# Apricots East End of Term Newsletter: Spring 2021

This term Apricots East class have enjoyed lots of learning activities in school and through remote learning. In maths we have developed our understanding of number, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, money and time through practical tasks.



In English the children have enjoyed engaging with stories from magical worlds and from familiar settings. All of the children, whether working from home or at school, have enjoyed our work on different stories and have joined in with story language and activities. All of the children have been working hard on their phonics and handwriting by developing their phonological and fine motor skills.



This term our Topic learning has been about different transport and how we are special. The children have engaged in a wide range of creative and explorative activities to develop their knowledge of the world. The children have particularly enjoyed engaging making boats, hot air balloons and aeroplanes. They have also enjoyed making comparisons between themselves and their friends including families, bedrooms and footprints. As always the computing activities have been very popular with all of the children.



In RE lessons the children have developed their knowledge of stories from different religions using a variety of resources and creative activities. During our weekly wellbeing sessions the children have engaged on cooperative activities and explored mindfulness and relaxation.



All of the staff in Apricots Class would like to wish you all a Happy Easter We hope you have an enjoyable Easter holiday. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you all once again for your continued support and understanding this term. The remote learning has been extremely successful in our class and that is thanks to your dedication and support of your children's education. Warmest Wishes Lisa 😊

## Plums East

### Spring Term Newsletter

We've come to the end of another term and whether at home or in school during the Lockdown our topic of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* has created some wonderful memories. (The children have been highly motivated by our Thursday story time sharing chapters of the story, in particular Rachel's impressions of the characters!!)

We have tasted chocolate, cooked with chocolate, painted with chocolate, created our own chocolates, made wrappers and even tasted Mayan hot chocolate...it wasn't the same as sweet hot chocolate and a bit too spicy!

We will end the term with a theme day - Who will win a Golden ticket?!



Plums class have also enjoyed playing with and sharing toys again this term to support their interactions and friendships.



# Limes East

The Spring Term has been a tricky one. The children have experienced Home Learning and tried their best to engage in school activities, although they have been at home! In the last couple of weeks, the children have quickly adapted to everyone being back in school and settled into the “new normal” routines.

Our class topic this term has been Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and you can see the children have been busy turning the classroom into a sweet shop, through Art and D.T. lessons.

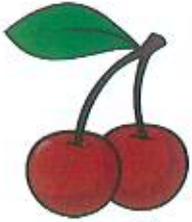


Whenever possible we use our topic in other areas of our learning – whether it is exploring how molecules move; how different types of sweets feel and smell and how they might be transported from a factory to a sweet shop.

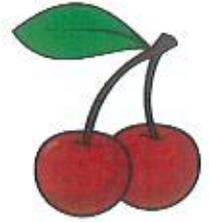


It is great to see the children being so curious, whether it be exploring how the Mayans drank chocolate many centuries ago or how clouds hold the rain (apologies for the messy Science!) or learning how different countries celebrate Easter. Thanks to all the parents / carers. Well done Limes children.





## Cherries East Newsletter



The spring term was certainly a challenging one. Everybody had to get use to a very different way of working and although the home learning was tricky at times, everybody did so well in ensuring the children were still learning from home. It was lovely to be able to welcome back the majority of children.

This term, our topic was 'Charlie and the chocolate factory'. We explored the book and characters in detail, we made golden tickets and even had our very own Cherries old fashion sweet shop! The children have enjoyed creative activities such as making golden tickets and morphing themselves into Oompa Lumpas! We have made old fashions sweets and discovered the history and geography of where chocolate originates.



In Science, we have explored states of matter which linked really well to our topic as the children really enjoyed changing the state of chocolate and finding gases in food and drink both at home and at school. We have looked at different types of rock closely and enjoyed getting messy by making our own rock sand.





In PSHE we have learnt how to keep ourselves clean and healthy and how doctors and medicines can help us. In R.E the children have enjoyed activities related to how Easter is celebrated throughout the world in different ways including American egg rolling!



Maths and English remain at the forefront of our curriculum and the children have explored length, mass and capacity as well as data collection this term. We have enjoyed looking at different types of writing and continued with our phonics and kinetic letter programmes.



Although this has been a term to remember, the children have adapted wonderfully and worked so very hard. It was only fair we were allowed a couple of snow days! We hope for a more consistent summer term where we have lots of fun and engaging curriculum activities for the children to dive into.



Have a wonderful and relaxing Easter break!



What a strange term this has been! Lots of **Pineapple** children, their parents and the Pineapple staff have been learning how best to learn in Teams Meetings. We are truly grateful for the fantastic support and encouragement we have had from families! It's been good to work so closely together. We have chosen some photos to share with you to show you some of the things we have enjoyed in the class.

We very carefully made Krispie cakes in a Science lesson when we were learning about melting chocolate. That, of course, was a popular lesson. We also poured water into gloves and then saw how the water froze.



A real highlight is our weekly walk. We have enjoyed both windy and sunny walks.



We loved playing in the snow together in our playground. We built snowmen and threw snowballs.



The children enjoy learning about nature, both outside and in the classroom.



We have covered all the areas planned



and found time for lots of creative work and time to play too.



## Peaches-E Class

Our theme this term has been Potions and Spells and we have been focusing on the Roald Dahl stories: Many children were home learning when we read *George's Marvelous Medicine*, so they had lots of fun making potions at home. We read *The Twits*, which some of the children thought was a very strange story but the Roly Poly Bird and Muggle-Wump the monkey were the favourite characters.

In conjunction with our Science theme of materials we learnt about different buildings, including Victorian school and houses, and finding out about the *Great Fire of London* where hundreds of wooden houses were burnt down.

In Science we have been making different mixtures and potions. A highlight was investigating what happens to an egg when it is cooked for different amounts of time, or if you change the chemical structure of an egg shell by soaking it in vinegar! The children have been very good at using scientific vocabulary about solids, liquids and gases.

Since half term we have been visiting different places around the world, such as China, Africa and the Arctic. We enjoyed Performance Poem about Chinese New Year, and made African drums, and got very creative painting, colouring or making collages of different African animals.

We have enjoyed a weekly walk around Spencer Park, and doing 5 a day with the pupils who have been still at home. We are glad that everyone is back now, and hope that it will be the start of a 'new normal' that we have all been hoping for. The children have coped really well with the uncertainties of this term, and it has given us the opportunity to talk about our emotions and how we respond to those feelings appropriately. Those at home have learnt an impressive amount of life skills, walked more with their families and can communicate better at home!

Well done to all the boys who have engaged with online and/or classroom learning, and thank you again to the parents who have supported them through this tricky term.



In my petten i put in a rilla  
 In my petten i put in a brown paint  
 In my petten i put in a cold state's cole slaw  
 in my petten i put in wood  
 In my petten i put in leaves  
 In my petten i put in a rickety  
 also in my petten i put in a berry  
 in my petten i put in spices



## Bananas-T Class Spring Newsletter 2021

This term, Bananas class have had a lot of fun exploring the topic 'What's your favourite nursery rhyme?' Each week we have focused on a different theme, such as: Hickory dickory dock, Baa baa black sheep, 5 currant buns in a baker's shop, I'm a little teapot, and finally, Humpty Dumpty.

This term, it's been a real pleasure watching the children express their preferences and interests and continue to develop their friendships as they seek out each other to share their experiences. The children have also enjoyed welcoming our new staff member, Dorrie to the class. Dorrie will be working in Bananas class on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.



They have really enjoyed playing alongside and with each other particularly with small world toys and in the continuous provision area which has been set up to reflect our theme of the week.

Our weekly Sensory, Sunshine Circle and Mindfulness sessions also promote developing friendships further whilst introducing the children to new and fun experiences!



In maths, we've participated in a variety of activities relating to number and shape, space, and measures. We've had the opportunity to sort objects into groups, join in with number rhymes and finger games, fill and empty containers, assemble simple

arrangements and constructions and exchange a coin for goods in the class shop.



In phonics, we are continuing to learn a new letter sound each week from the Read Write Inc set 1 speed sounds and use these for sound-blending practice. The children have really enjoyed our daily small group interactive sessions, particularly rhythm and rhyme activities and environmental and instrumental sound activities. The children continue to enjoy sharing their letter sound of the week objects brought in from home.

We have been very busy developing both our fine and gross motor skills. In our weekly PE sessions, we are developing our balancing, throwing, and catching skills and have enjoyed playing a range of group games such as Cat & Mouse.

Our weekly play dough disco sessions continue to support hand and finger strength, enabling us to engage in Kinetic Letters activities to develop our handwriting skills. We are all making great progress with our mark making/writing skills and demonstrate increasing control in holding and using mark-making tools and imitating drawing shapes such as circles and lines and some recognisable letters.



Our weekly cooking sessions are always lots of fun. To support our weekly themes, we've created edible mice, enjoyed afternoon tea, and made chocolate crispy sheep. These sessions provide us with the opportunity to engage and participate with weighing and measuring and then sampling our tasty treats! Bananas class have also enjoyed a

range of sensory activities based on tactile and malleable materials, such as making play dough buns and using teapots, not only with paint to explore mixing colour, but also with teabags to make their own tea!

The Bananas class team have been so proud of the children this term and we look forward to welcoming the children back for term 5, refreshed and ready to explore our new topic 'Why do ladybirds have spots'? Happy Easter to you all.