

Nursery Newsletter

10th March 2022

This week we focused our learning on Wild Animals and their habitats. We listened to the story 'Flip Flap Jungle' and discussed the different animals, where they live and what they eat. Some children recalled seeing some of the animals in the Zoo such as Gorillas, Monkey and Tigers; they were very excited to share their experiences with their friends and teachers.

During continuous provision, the children enjoyed participating in a range of activities such as creating animal prints; wild animals mask making and discovering different habitats for wild animals including ocean animals.

Red Acorns

The children learned vocabulary related to wild animals and discussed their different habitats. During Phonics, we enjoyed the story 'Bear Hunt' and added sounds by using our voices e.g. the sound of snowstorms and walking through oozy mud.

Blue Acorns

In Maths, the children have been learning positional language, they have been practicing using full sentences to describe positions e.g. the dog is beside the chair and the cat is under the table.

This week's Makaton sign is:

Finished



This week's song:

Walking in the Jungle





Message from Mrs Cunningham

Last week, we welcomed a team of Head Teachers to complete an EYFS Teaching and Learning Review. We were delighted with the feedback, highlighting the strength of continuous provision (both inside and outside) across both Reception and Nursery. All children were happily engaged independently, collaboratively or by the staff team. There was a lovely buzz of learning in Mini-Woodies too! They were incredibly impressed with how well our children could self-select resources and talk to our visitors about their learning. There was also a focus on mark making and writing opportunities across the provision and they commented on how much the children had already mastered. They were incredibly impressed with the EYFS Lead's knowledge of the new framework and how this had been implemented and embedded so successfully.

This was followed by a further LA commissioned review of early reading and phonics. This reviewed provision from Nursery up to Year 2. This is important, as there were changes to the approach to the teaching and learning of phonics introduced nationally in September. Again, learning was observed in 'lessons' and in continuous provision and again, feedback was excellent.

It was so positive having such complimentary feedback from both teams, especially since Acorns Nursery is still so new. Having a nursery has already brought so much to our school and all of the Senior Leadership Team are delighted to be able to get to know our children even sooner. Our Acorns will be buddied with Year 3 and they had their first shared session together on World Book Day. It is also lovely having Reception and Nursery together for assemblies; a great transition to our school and the Nursery children love to see the 'big boys and girls'!

The sun has been shining and I have loved popping down to EYFS to see the children in their new-shared session during the afternoon. We have done this gradually and the children have thrived! We have also been preparing the older Acorns this week to have their lunch in the lunch hall; which started Wednesday 9th March; the children were very excited and thoroughly enjoyed their first experience.

Staffing Update:

I have just received notification that three of our Nursery Team are leaving; Mrs Evans who had personal reasons for her quick departure, which some of you are already aware of. Miss Brown who worked with us through an agency but had an incredibly long commute and Miss Osbourne. Balancing childcare and shift work can be a challenge! I am also now able to share the exciting news that Miss Maggie is pregnant and will also not be returning.

Of course, losing anyone from our team poses challenges, however it is at a good time, the nursery is well established and thriving and we have had several new staff join us recently, Miss Hobbs has already joined us from Bright Horizons and some are still trialling for long term roles via agencies. Miss Jones has expressed a preference to work full time in the Nursery from now on despite initially being employed by the school. This is great news as she is both qualified and experienced. Mrs Bekri also works in both the nursery and the school. We also welcome Mrs Omar back to the CPS EYFS Team. Mrs Tamimi is well established now and I am sure you will agree that we have strong provision where our children thrive and we will continue to provide consistency and learning opportunities for all our children under the watchful eye of Miss Dias. Also, please be assured that we will always ensure at least minimum staffing ratios are maintained. We will be advertising for an additional member of staff to join the team.

NOTICES:

March Parent Consultations – If your child has their birthday in March or September, the class teacher will contact parents nearer the time to book a parent consultation slot. The meeting will be on 30th March.

Nappies and wipes – If your child wears nappies please bring a full pack instead of daily nappies. We also ask you to bring wipes for your child.

Spare clothes – Each child should have their own set of spare clothes (top, bottom, underwear and socks) in a spare bag labelled in the nursery. Please label all clothes and shoes.

Water bottles – Please ensure that your child has a labelled water bottle every day in nursery.

Packed Lunches – Please be aware that we are a nut and sesame free school due to allergies. Please do not send any products containing sesame or nuts in your child's packed lunch. Just a reminder that we are a healthy school and chocolates are not allowed.

Nursery WhatsApp group for parents – If you are not on the parents group please ask a member of the nursery team to pass you the reps details.

Instagram Account – Claygate Primary School has a dedicated Instagram account for EYFS. Please follow us and see what our EYFS children are learning.
[@claygate_primary_school_eyfs](https://www.instagram.com/claygate_primary_school_eyfs)

Illness – If your child has any of the three Covid-19 symptoms (persistent cough, high temperature or loss of smell or taste) they need to self-isolate for 10 days or return to school with a negative test result (send a copy of the result to the office).

We thank you, as always, for your continuing support.
Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

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EYFS Leader – Miss Dias

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