Empower Trust
Inspire to Achieve

Issue 7 Spring Term 2021



From Ian Nurser, Chief Executive Officer

We are all really pleased to have been able to welcome all of the children back to school from 8th March!! Even though social distancing measures and class bubbles remain in place, having all of the children back has brought the school buildings to life, buzzing with light and positive energy!! The children are particularly enjoying meeting and playing with their friends – they seem to have also really enjoyed getting back into school and learning routines.

As I said in the previous newsletter, I have been incredibly impressed by every child, member of staff, parent and their local communities for the positive way everyone has managed and supported the children and their school during the lockdowns and throughout the COVID pandemic.

I realise how challenging it has been for parents – having to juggle home learning with work and other family commitments has been a truly herculean task, testing family relationships to the limit, especially on those sunny days! The support of families is an absolute cornerstone of effective education and is truly appreciated by all school staff - thank you for your patience and perseverance!

School staff have also worked flexibly and tirelessly to provide high quality learning activities for both children at home and at school for key worker and vulnerable children – often alongside balancing their own childcare arrangements. All Empower Trust employees were sent a Happy Box of goodies to enjoy over half term as a small token of our appreciation.

The children, as always, continue to impress us all -they continue to be an inspiration to us all and remind us every day of why we work in education. Please take some time to read through the examples of children's work in this newsletter, both from home learning and from in-school activities. I am sure that you be impressed at the variety and quality of the learning experiences.

As we begin to see the easing of the COVD regulations I remain hopeful that schools – and life in general – will be able to begin to move back towards what we previously regarded as 'normal', with friends and family being able to routinely meet again. Of course, we are aware that, despite the positive roll out of the vaccine, the pandemic is not yet over. Be assured that ensuring the safety and welfare of the children remains the key priority for all Empower Trust staff.

Finally, I hope that every child, family member and member of staff has a Happy Easter!

Ian Nurser
Chief Executive Officer

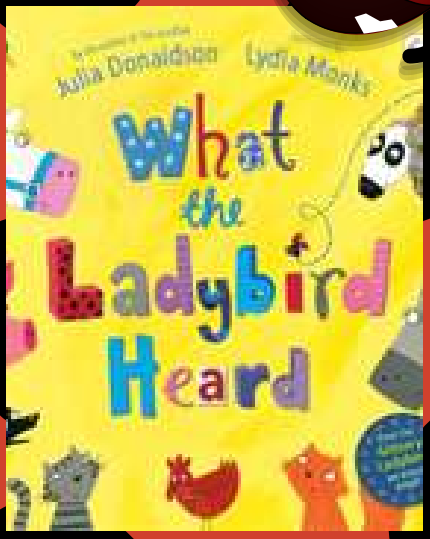
CE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL WE

ST PETER'S

NURSERY



Acting out the story









Reading the story

Creating pictures



RECEPTION

This term, we have used the story of We're Going on a Bear Hunt' in our learning. Reception children have been getting outdoors on their very own bear hunts and using materials collected from their walks and from around their houses to create mixed media pictures of the different environments in the story.



'We collected the snow, tipped it upside down, tapped the top and made a snowcastle!' 'The snow is freezing, it turns to ice, when it warms up it will all melt.'
Jasmine





"I have been learning about number 5. I put some bears outside and some inside the cave. We were splitting the number into parts. When I put them together they make number 5 as a whole."
Chaarlie E

CE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL WEM

ST PETER'S

YEAR 1

2+2=4

As part of our Maths this term, Year 1 have been working hard to find half of a quantity. We used the part-whole model to help us.











In our Science we did an experiment to find out which material was waterproof. We designed a shelter for a small toy and then covered it with a material. We could use cotton, cellophane, bubble wrap or tissue paper. We found that "The cotton was not waterproof because it had tiny holes in it" says Bea.

We found that "Bubble wrap was waterproof because the water stayed on the top" says Ronnie.

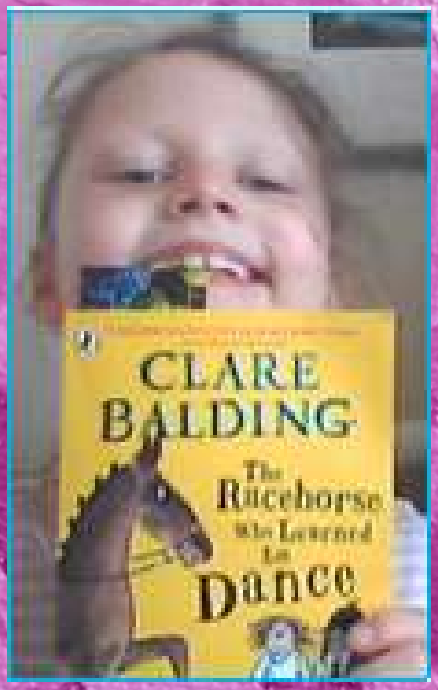


ST PETER'S CE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL WEM

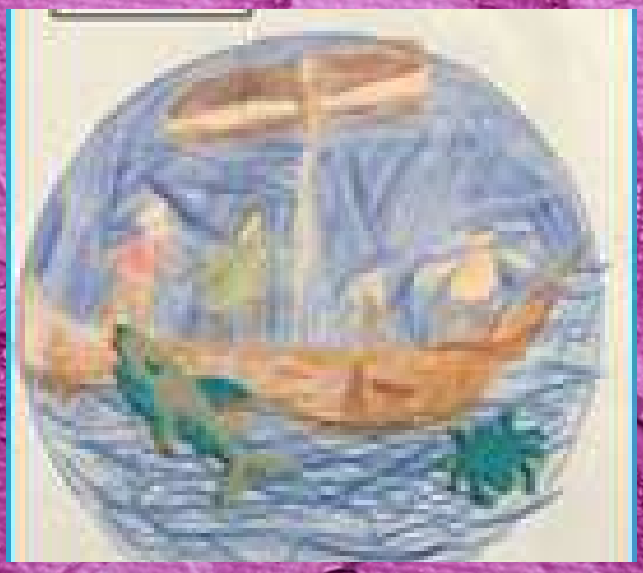
YEAR 2

We have been so proud and impressed with all of the hard work completed by the Year 2 children at home and at school.

They have completed weather diaries, researched the Great Fire of London, investigated the properties of different materials, designed Jonah and the Whale stained glass windows, soaked their kitchens experimenting with capacity and read hundreds of wonderful books!







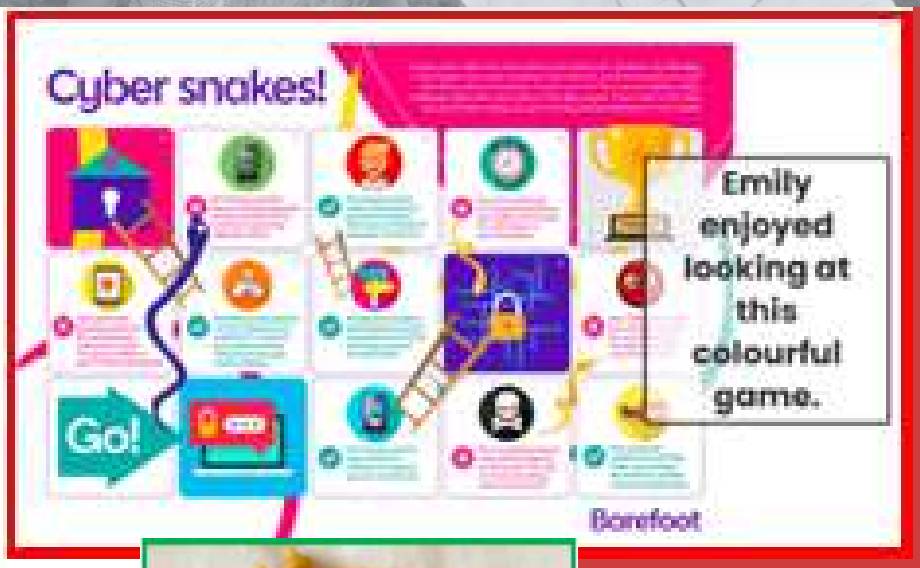






ST PETER'S CE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL WEM

YEAR 3

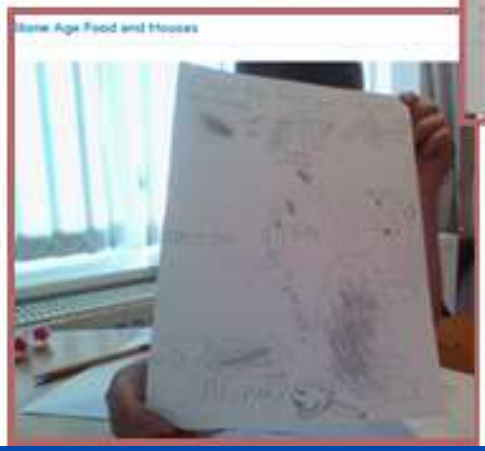




I made a spear to go hunter gathering. I found lots of berries and leaves. I found a Woolly Mammoth but I hit it with my spear.







Fred and i discussed the different natural food which was scavanged as it grew and how differwnt it is from modern food. Wm.W





Year 3 continue to work hard inside and outside of school – well done, everyone!

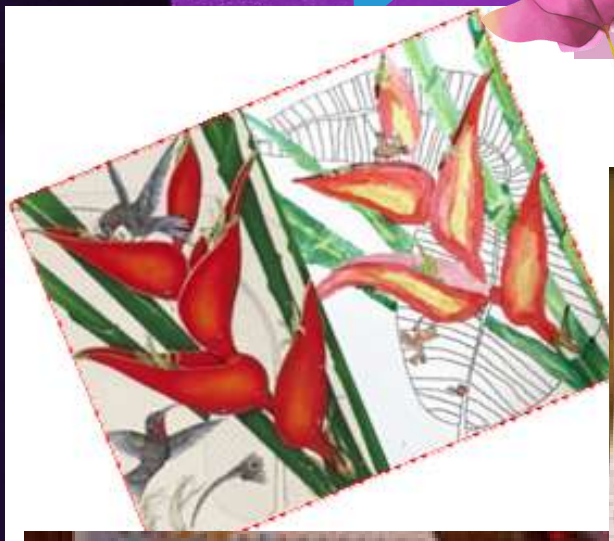
Throughout the term they've tackled a variety of fun activities in a range of subjects from History to Science, Art to Computing, RE to French and ways to keep ourselves safe - online and when we are out and about.



ST PETER'S CE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL WEM

YEAR 4

We've enjoyed sketching in the style of Margaret Mee and the quality of our artwork is really developing.













ST PETER'S CE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL WEM

YEAR 5

In Art this term we have been learning to use tone and texture to draw stark landscape features. Here are some examples of our trees that we drew.







We have also learnt about the Buddhist celebration of Wesak and created lanterns.









CE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL WEM

ST PETER'S

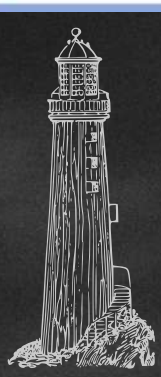
YEAR 6

We have learnt lots about the science and history behind lighthouses, linked to our class story, 'Letters From The Lighthouse', our science topic of light and our history topic of WW2. We have worked really hard on fractions, learnt about incarnation – a crucial element of the Christian faith – as well as getting hooked into our class story, Letters From The Lighthouse.

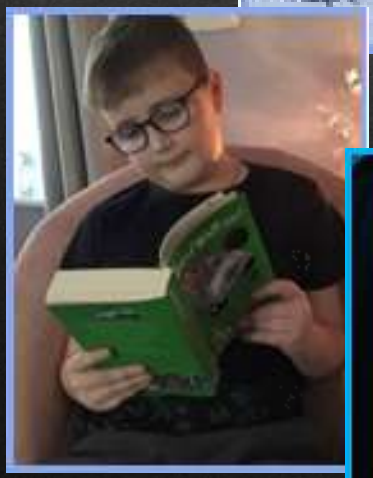




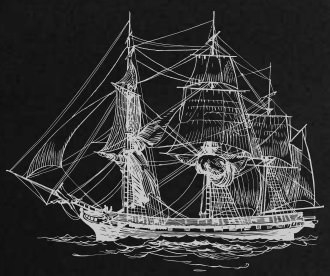












Empower Trust

Inspire to Achieve



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Photo by Behzad Ghaffarian on Unsplash

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Are you interested in becoming a Primary School Teacher?

Are you looking for a career change or looking to return to work after a career break?
Teaching could be an option.....

We are recruiting for our School Direct programme and applications for the next cohort are invited. The programme is a one-year full time route into teaching, leading to the recommendation of Qualified Teacher Status and the award of Post Graduate Certificate in Education in conjunction with the University of Chester.

We currently have several enthusiastic and talented associate teachers who are training in good or outstanding local schools and at the University of Chester's Shrewsbury campus. The programme is run entirely within Shropshire and is ideal for students currently at university or for anyone with a 2:1 degree and wishing to start a new career.

If you think this is an opportunity for you, please visit our website or get in touch with us. You

We look forward to hearing from you.

"I completed the PGCE through the Shropshire Primary Partnership. I am now working as a Year 2 teacher in one of the partner schools that I trained in. I thoroughly enjoy my job and am lucky to be working with such a supportive team. I would highly recommend this course to anyone considering a career in teaching". One of our teachers who qualified last year.



Market Drayton Junior School

Year 3





Year 3 have been doing a fantastic job with their home learning this half-term. We are so proud of the effort that is being put in and would like to send a heartfelt thank you to all the children and their parents. During the half term we have completed a Jane Considine (Mrs C) Writing Unit on The Secret of Black Rock. Mrs C lessons are challenging but they do help us to develop our understanding of words and give us lots of ideas about how to write brilliant sentences and develop ourselves as a writer so well done to all those pupils who stuck with it and completed all nine lessons. It is wonderful to see the children applying what they have learnt to their independent writing.

In Maths, we have recapped place value and developed our understanding of fractions. We have learnt about plants in Science and symbols in RE. In Geography, we have developed our map work, looking at the U.K., Europe and now focusing in on France. We have developed our understanding of rhythm in our music lessons and have learnt to greet each other and to count in Spanish. In Art we have looked at patterns and have considered warm and cold colours and used these to depict winter trees. Thank you for being absolute superstars both in school and at home.





Year 4











The children in Year 4 have been learning about Explorers this half term, including looking at the life and work of Charles Darwin. All children have had the opportunity to dress as an explorer during a whole-year Teams meeting, thinking about the equipment an explorer might need for their adventures. They have also focused on sketching skills in art and have looked at some of Darwin's species drawings.

Year 4 have also taken part in the national Big Birdwatch both at school and at home. In school they have been exploring with Mr Boughey outdoor learning and children at home have been making pictures from nature as well as bird feeders.

Year 4 celebrated Children's Mental Health Week (1st – 7th February). The national focus for this year's theme was 'Express Yourself.' The children found ways to express themselves though sharing their feelings and ideas through creativity. They had the opportunity to focus on their wellbeing and participate in mindful activities through art, nature, music and drama. Within these activities they considered 'Hope, Honesty, Friendship and Perseverance.' The children created some fantastic nature artwork which represented their hopes for this year.



Market Drayton Junior School

Year 5

In History, the children this term have been learning about the Anglo Saxons, creating exciting projects and discovering their way of life. We have had opportunities to see the lasting impact that the Anglo Saxon period has had on what makes England what it is today, such as the names of many cities and counties, even the word 'cheese'!

We have also delved into the art movement of Pop Art and artist Andy Warhol by using his style to depict our heroic heroes and experiment with our use of colour.
The children have loved tasting a range of soups in preparation for our own soup creations. We researched seasonal vegetables to know what would be sustainable choices for ingredients to make a perfect wintery soup. One important thing to note that came out of our soup tasting is the children LOVE tomato soup here in Market Drayton!

Finally, we have had lots of successful TEAMS meetings in which we are so pleased with the behaviour during the calls, as well as the attendance. Our rewards challenge is underway on DB so please keep sending in examples of your brilliant, hard work to receive more points! We would like to thank all our Year 5 children and their families at home for their wonderful work, excellent effort and super support – we thoroughly appreciate it!











Year 6

I ♥ BOOKS



In Year 6 have been hard at work! They have been using the text 'Instructions' by Neil Gaiman to base their own stories around. We have seen fabulous examples of imperative verbs, creative settings and rich vocabulary.

Children have really shown a 'Push Yourself' attitude with their fractions work, and trying extension activities. The balance of power between the girls and boys in the battle for supremacy on Times Tables Rockstars swings like pendulum. Us teachers have loved being sent examples of snow creations, inventive art ideas, cookery masterpieces and pet superstars. We are so proud of their effort at this unusual time!

Photo by Justine ft on Unsplash

MARKET DRAYTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

Thank you









We all know how strange and difficult the last 12 months has been, in many different ways. Despite the challenges and negative situations faced by individuals, business and communities as a whole, it is heartening to see so many examples of people pulling together, supporting one-another and celebrating the positives. As a school community we have been fortunate enough to be on the receiving end of some of these positive gestures recently, which we would like to share with you and express our thanks for.

Staff 'thank you' goody bags received from Market Drayton Methodist Church, in recognition of the school's role in continuing to support critical workers and vulnerable children throughout theongoing pandemic.

A very kind donation of £100 worth of toys and games for our children, from Argos, Market Drayton. These will be very useful for wet-play activities during the poorer weather!

A wonderful selection of staff goodies to celebrate a very special birthday recently for our very own Miss Brayne! A huge thank you to our very talented staff bakers, Mrs Claydon and Mrs Heather for their delicious celebration cakes! And thank you too, to Mrs Hughes and all the children for the fabulous birthday card featuring personalised drawings and messages, to help brighten up Miss Brayne's lockdown birthday!

The National Literacy Trust: The 'Where's Wally?' fun run is back!

The iconic Where's Wally? fun run is back and this year we are going virtual and launching our first ever Where's Wally? Weekender! You can take part by running or walking wherever you are! On the weekend of 20 – 21 March 2021, join hundreds of other families, runners and book lovers as they don the classic red and white stripes and run, jog or walk to raise money for the National Literacy Trust. Run your own 10k, 5k, or 1k route close to home.

As a charity that exists to change the lives of the UK's most disadvantaged children, there has never been a more important time for our work. Every penny raised by taking part in our Where's Wally? Weekender will help support the literacy and learning of children across the UK, giving them a route out of poverty and changing their life story.

The Where's Wally? Weekender is open to everyone, whether you are a seasoned runner wanting to take on a new challenge or you fancy a fun walk! Just show off your stripes, choose your route and track your distance. You can take part anywhere and at any time during the weekend of 20 – 21 March. Know someone else who would love this fun challenge? Encourage them to sign up and do it in their own local area too!

The dynamic author duo Alex Bellos and Ben Lyttleton, co-authors of the incredible Football School series (Walker Books), are supporting this year's event! They'll both be taking on a 10k run around their local areas while dressed as Where's Wally? and will be sharing some fun video messages for all participants ahead of the weekend! They'll both be taking on a 10k run around their local areas while dressed as Where's Wally? and will be sharing some fun video messages for all participants ahead of the weekend!



LOSE YOURSELF IN A BOOK

MARKET DRAYTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

WORLD BOOK DAY!













For World Book Day 2021, we celebrated in school and at home! Children and adults dressed up in either pyjamas or as a story book character. During our class Teams calls, we shared our favourite stories, fabulous costumes and recommended books to each other. For the National Book Token competition, we created new designs showing our love for reading! Some children in school also made dioramas, showing off their cherished stories as a boxed model for others to guess at and admire.

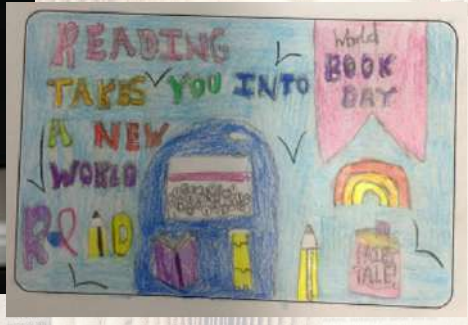














MARKET DRAYTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

WORLD BOOK DAY!

For World Book Day in Year 4, children attended a Teams meeting or school in pyjamas with their favourite book to share. They participated in a story sack activity where they had clues and had to identify the book being described. They and the class teachers all shared their favourite books, made book-marks and created front covers and blurbs for loved books.

Prior to WBD they were asked to have a photo taken doing some extreme reading!



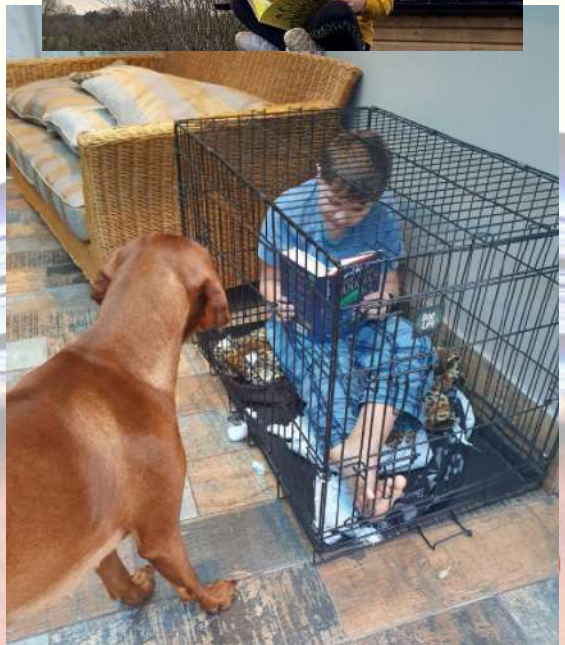














Market Drayton Infant and Nursery School

YEAR 2

Maths-Measures:

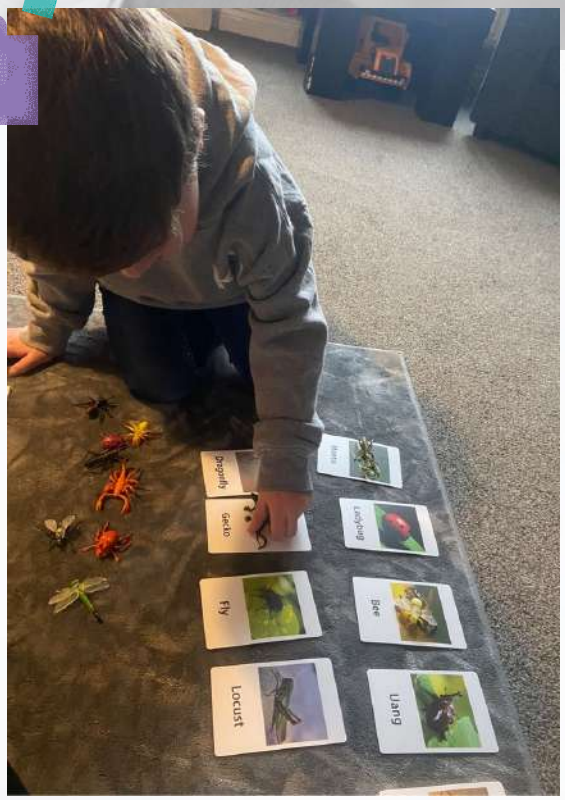
As spring is on the horizon and hope is on its way lockdown did not stop us celebrating Shrove Tuesday in school and remotely at home. We have been learning all about measures within Maths and took the opportunity to put our prior knowledge to the test and create delicious pancakes! We learnt 'Pancake Day' has been celebrated for centuries and is determined by when Easter falls within the year. Our favourite part of the lesson was being able to eat the pancakes we had made! This learning went further across the week combining problem solving and measures using everyday objects such as potatoes. We were slightly disappointed we did not get to make chips!







EYFS



The staff within the Nursery setting at Market Drayton Infants have been working hard on developing vocabulary across the curriculum, for some children they may need a little bit of extra support.

Mrs James, our speech and language teaching assistant, has recently organised some story packs which include a book, objects and a follow up activity, for children to take home to be able to work on language development. She has received amazing feedback from the parents and some lovely uploads to the schools online learning platform 'Seesaw.'

Parental feedback has been very positive and was gauged using a parent questionnaire that was sent home with the pack. The comments included how the children wanted to 'read the book again and again', 'K learnt new animal names, such as mantis and termite' and 'having a 'pack' felt really special and E was excited about completing it'.

Nursery rhyme of the week!



Ring 'O' Ring 'O' Roses



During CI the children collaborated together to sing their rhyme of the week.

In promoting speech, language and communication, staff also send home a nursery rhyme of the week using 'Seesaw'.

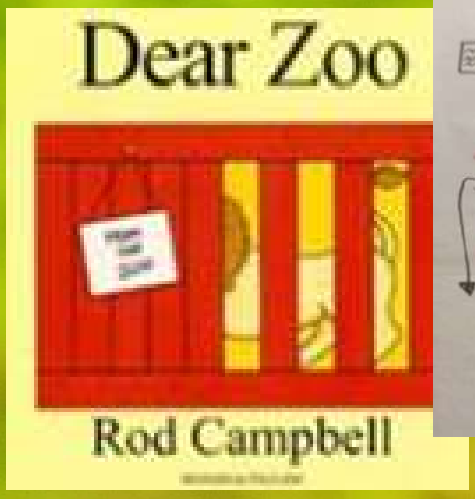
This supports parents in working with their children on rhyme awareness and building a bank of traditional nursery rhymes. Staff often capture children reciting rhymes in the setting too!

Market Drayton Infant and Nursery School

RECEPTION

The children are learning about animals from all over the world and they are focussing on the story 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell.

The children have made puppets, acted out the story, made masks and thought about what animal they would like to be sent from the zoo. The children have made story maps and performed the story ready to write.





For World Book Day the children dressed up as an animal from this story.







RECEPTION



In science week the children carried out lots of exploratory investigations including which material would be best for a dog bed, which material is waterproof thus good to use as a zoo enclosure roof and floating and sinking to find good toys for the penguins at the zoo.



Like the rest of the nation we also celebrated Red Nose Day on Friday 19th March. We all wore red and learnt about the story of Elida, a little girl supported by Comic Relief. She is very close to her Grandma and lives in Malawi. This is similar to JoJo and Gran from Cbeebies, who live in St Lucia.



To help mark the occasion of Red Nose Day we held a carnival—we made masks and hats, did some dancing and decorated the classroom with bunting! It was great fun for a good cause.



