

## Robin Hall Newsletter – Week 6

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s) of Robin Hall,

We hope that the children enjoyed last week's activities and learned a lot about people who help them at school. It was great to see videos recorded by Headteachers, our school cook and school nurse. We hope to see them soon in person once the schools reopen.

This week we would like to summarise the learning journey about People who help us and explore how **vets** help us when our pets are poorly. I wonder whether Miss Ross can tell us if Teddy or Bella have visited a vet yet.

The main focus of the week, however, is dedicated to **Chinese New Year**. We would like the children to learn about this important festival in Chinese culture as part of learning and understanding different cultures.

**Please also log onto your child's Tapestry where you can listen to daily stories and poems published by the Nursery Team. You will also find an extra off line activity that we post of Tapestry from Boromi.**

It was lovely to see some families coming to pick up the library books from our exchange service in the playground. Please remember that you can come and pick up some library books for your child. The exchange service is running on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February between 12.30-2pm in the Cuckoo Hall playground. Please enter via Mottingham Street entrance. \*No service during half-term holidays.

## Preparing your home learning environment

### Communication and Language

#### 'Vet' by Aldo Twin

It is a busy day for Mike the vet. There are lots of animals to see on the farm. The ewe is having her lamb and what's wrong with Prince the dog?

Listen Here to **Mrs Powrie** reading the story [here](#).

Some questions:

**Do you have any pets?**

**Have you ever met a vet?**

**Why do animals need to stay healthy? How can we take care of them?**

**Have you ever visited a farm? Wat animals did you see there? What is your favourite farm animal?**

**Which animals did Mike see in the book and how did he help them?**

**Would you like to be a vet when you grow up?**

**Our next learning journey is all about Farm Animals**

#### **ACTIVITY:**

**ROLE PLAY:** You can act out being vets at home. Get all your toys on the carpet; farm animals if you have any and try to help them pretending that they have poorly paws, tails or ears.





Watch **Miss Ross**, the Headteacher, talking about her 2 dogs; Teddy and Bella visiting the vet [here](#).

### Learning Journey reflection : PEOPLE WHO HELP US:



Who would you like to be when you grow up?  
In what way would you like to help others?  
What job would you like to do?  
Talk to your grown-ups about it and tell them why you would like to become (...).

## Chinese New Year



### Some facts to support you in talking to your child

**Chinese New Year** is the main Chinese festival of the year. As the Chinese use the Lunar calendar for their festivals the date of Chinese New Year changes from year to year. The date corresponds to the new moon (black moon) in either late January or February.

Traditionally celebrations last for fifteen days, ending on the date of the full moon. In China the public holiday lasts for three days and this is the biggest celebration of the year.

To find more facts about Chinese New Year look here:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/chinesenewyear/WhatIsChineseNewYear.aspx>

Did you know:

## The Year of the Ox is coming soon...

The Chinese New Year of the Ox will be on 12 February 2021. It will be year 4719 on the Chinese Calendar.

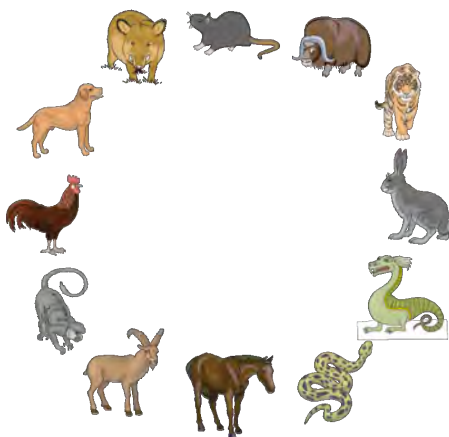
Until then, it is still the Year of the Rat which began on 25 January 2020.



Watch this video of Mr Kapalamula telling you how Chinese people celebrate the New Year [here](#)

The Chinese zodiac features 12 different animals that represent different years on a 12-year cycle, and people are believed to reflect the qualities associated with the animal of the year they were born. Other important symbols include lights and lanterns, the colour red, dragons, and plum blossoms.

Here are some pictures of the Chinese zodiac signs that are used for Chinese new year. Last year was the year of the rat. This year is the year of the ox, next year will be the year of the tiger. Can you find the symbol to be used this year? Challenge yourself by copying the sign. ☺



兔  
rabbit

龙  
dragon

蛇  
snake

虎  
tiger

牛  
ox

鼠  
rat

猪  
pig

狗  
dog

鸡  
rooster

猴  
monkey

羊  
goat

马  
horse

## Listen and retell the story of Chinese New Year

### Chinese New Year Legend

Legends are very old stories that people believe in but we cannot prove that they happened. There are lots of different legends around the world. This week we are going to find out what is the legend behind the animals in the Chinese calendar. Why the animals are in the calendar, why the rat comes first and why the pig is the last?

Please join **Mrs Idziaszczyk** to listen to the legend of Chinese New Year. Click [here](#).

### Make a Chinese lantern with Mrs Field.

To make a Chinese lantern you will need:

- Red paper
- A ruler
- Scissors
- Glue

Follow the link to find out how to make your lantern [here](#).



### Mathematical Development

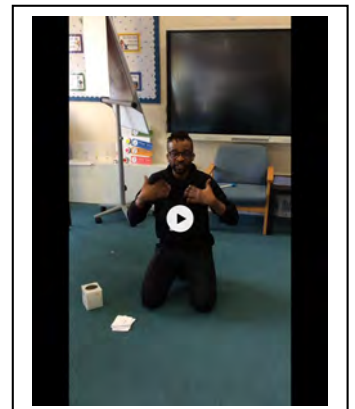
This week we will be sharpening our counting skills by counting an action.

You will need to have ten pieces of paper which you can cut in any shape or size. Write the numbers 1 to 10 on these pieces of paper. Please support the children to write the numbers and place them in a bag, box or container/box.

Take turns playing a game where you pull out a number and perform an action corresponding to the number that you or the child has pulled out of the box.

Get creative and imaginative with your actions. Claps, hopes, skips and more...

See how **Mr Kapalamula** does it [here](#).



## Outdoor Fun: Special dance

Follow this link to watch the video of Chinese Ribbon Dancing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1vQ0GsJIAo> this is a traditional dance used to celebrate Chinese New Year. Can you find ribbon, kitchen roll, a tea towel or something similar and make your own ribbon dance outside? What shapes can you make with your ribbon? Can you make a circle, wiggly line and a figure of eight?



## Focus activity

Look at the picture below. It shows the symbols used in Chinese for the numbers 1-10.

一	二	三	四	五
One Yī	Two èr	Three sān	Four sì	Five wǔ
六	七	八	九	十
Six liù	Seven qī	Eight bā	Nine jiǔ	Ten shí

Can you draw any of the numbers by copying the lines?

Which number do you need to draw for your age?



## Challenges with Mr May- our PE teacher

Please check our website: <https://www.cuckoohallacademy.org.uk/Staying-active>

### Jumping Dice Home Physical Education

#### How to play:

- Play with a partner, take turns to roll a dice.
- Look at the number you have rolled and then complete the correct jumping exercises:

**Roll a 1** = Perform 20 star jumps

**Roll a 2** = Perform 20 tuck jumps

**Roll a 3** = Perform 20 pencil jumps

**Roll a 4** = Perform 20 jumps with a ½ turn

**Roll a 5** = Perform 20 jumps with a full turn

**Roll a 6** = Perform 20 squat jumps

- The first player to complete all of the activities listed above is the winner.



Can you encourage others to keep going?

Can you keep trying even if you feel tired?

### The Nursery rhyme for this week is

Join in and sing with Mrs Idziaszczyk by clicking [here](#).

Listen to this lovely Nursery rhyme as many times as you wish and join in the actions too.

### PE with Joe Wicks on, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

The fitness hero of the first lockdown is back with more daily workouts for all the family. Like before, the workouts will be aimed at young kids who are missing out on the PE lessons during the lockdown. But also like before, mums and dads and older children will no doubt all get involved.

**The sessions will be live on YouTube at 9am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Please join in and have fun.**

### *Open shut them*

Open, shut them,  
Open, shut them  
Give a little clap

Open shut them,  
Open shut them  
Lay them in your lap

Open, shut them,  
Open, shut them  
Roll them up like this

Open, shut them,  
Open, shut them  
Blow a little kiss

Open, shut them,  
Open, shut them  
Don't get in the muddle

Open, shut them,  
Open, shut them  
Give yourself a cuddle

It is important that you read to your child daily, engage in regular conversations with them and sing songs and rhymes together. You can join CBeebies website to find many children's favourites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch>

**If English is not your first language, please read and sing in your mother tongue as language universals are transferable and will benefit your child's development greatly.**

The Department for Education in England launched Hungry Little Minds in September 2019– a three-year campaign that aims to help parents understand that they have a big impact on their child's learning and that reading, playing and chatting with them is a simple thing they can do to help them develop. Please visit the website for a great deal of activities and suggestions that you can engage in with your child to support them.

<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

Please keep us informed about your child's learning at home. We would love to know how you get on with the activities suggested above or any fun learning activities of your own choice. Please send your photos and videos via Tapestry to us or send them to [jpowrie@chat-edu.org](mailto:jpowrie@chat-edu.org) and I will pass them on to the class teacher.

Keep safe and well.

**Thank you for your support.**

Justyna Powrie

EYFS Assistant Head Teacher