

Far, Far Away

Owlets Summer Term -

Panda Pen Pals



Welcome to another exciting term of learning. Our topic for this term is focused on exploring Japan and we will be learning about the country itself as well as embracing Japanese traditions.

We will begin the term with a special panda visitor to nursery called Hiro who has brought us a wonderful book called 'The Only Lonely Panda'

The book explores friendship and the importance of being kind to others and ends with the panda meeting his new best friend, Ming.

Hiro will stay in nursery with us for the term and will receive a weekly postcard from his friend Ming who has moved to Tokyo, teaching us about all the places she has visited and the customs she has learnt. Each week Owlets will explore a different part of this amazing country including learning about Japanese artists, food, traditional dress and will experience visiting a Japanese Tea House in the nursery garden!

How can you support this at home?

Reading

- The Only Lonely Panda by Jonny Lambert.
- I Live In Tokyo by Mari Takabayashi.
- Suki's Kimono by Chieri Uegaki.
- Take Me Out To The Yakyu by Aaron Meshon.
- Yoko's Paper Cranes by Rosemary Wells.

Making

- Why not try to practise the art of origami and make some of these beautiful flowers?
- Look at photos of the gorgeous coloured kimonos and see if you can create your own mini version using paper and paints.
- Why not try making your own Mount Fuji eruption using vinegar and bicarbonate of soda? Add a little red food colouring for a realistic lava look!
- Have a go at some sushi making!



Playing or Visiting

- Try some Rajio Taiso - A Japanese exercise routine broadcast daily for everyone to take part in. You can find it on YouTube.
- Set up a sushi bar role play or make some wagashi - traditional Japanese sweet treats.
- Enjoy a virtual trip on the bullet train.
- Share a film together. Big Hero Six has some brilliant Japanese technology to watch and Kung Fu Panda is full of amazing architecture.



And Finally

After our next half term, Ming will ask Hiro to go and stay with her in Japan to meet her friends. We will be using this as a transition tool to help our children moving on to Reception and will discuss how important it is to try new things and make new friends.



"The important thing is to take that first step. Bravely overcoming one small fear gives you the courage to take on the next"

Daisku Ikeda