



## Reception Newsletter – Term 5 – All Creatures Great and Small



Wow!! Where has the year gone? We are already at the beginning of the Summer Term and at last, it seems like the weather may have settled down a bit for us, although it has still been chilly at times. For the time being, please ensure that your child has a coat in school every day, as we will be taking every opportunity to explore the great outdoors as part of our topic. If your child is not yet able to do up their zip, we would appreciate you helping your child to practice this at home.

Thank you for your support with reading and completing 1-minute maths practice at home. Please continue to work with your child as much as you possibly can.

Your support really is invaluable. 1-minute maths is available on any device via the website -   <https://whiteroseeducation.com/1-minute-maths> or by downloading the app. (Search for 1-minute maths). This app is free and helps the children build their number confidence and fluency through engaging one-minute tasks. The sections we would recommend are all of subitising, addition – section 1, 2, 3 and 11, subtraction – section 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 11, multiplication – section 6 and section 7, division – section 16. You will find that some areas are trickier than others, however the hint button usually makes this become clearer. All that we ask is that you do not try to move on to any of the more challenging things too soon. Pitch it lower than you might expect your child to achieve. Let them be really good at it before trying the next stage. The same goes for reading. It is ok to read books over and over again or to do the same homework sheets again, as it really will boost your child's confidence in themselves when they experience lots of success. If you have any questions, we are more than happy to help.

### Forest School will continue on the dates below:-

- Elm Class (Mr. Redpath) – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May – (Please note, there will be no Forest School session on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May).
- Ash Class (Mrs Ellison-Jones) – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May.

We are really excited to let you know about some sessions, where you will be able to come and join us to learn what Forest School is all about. You have already been sent a separate email about this, however we have listed the information here for you again. For both sessions, please wait at the main playground gate and we will let you in to the school grounds from there.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Elm Class Parents are invited to join us between 9.30am and 10.30am.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May – Ash Class Parents are invited to join us between 1.30pm and 2.30pm.

As we will be learning lots about the great outdoors this half term, you may like to take the opportunity to have your own adventures with your child around the garden or further afield. Take a look at how the seasons are changing, go on insect hunts, build habitats for insects or other small animals or you could even plant some seeds and other flowers/vegetables and watch them grow. We would love to hear about your adventures. If you are happy to share any photographs, these can be emailed to [office@bridge.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@bridge.kent.sch.uk), and they will be forwarded through to us to show on the large screen in class.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- To learn about making friends, solving friendship problems when they occur.
- To learn about what makes a good friendship.
- To work with others, helping them to feel part of a group.
- To show respect in how they treat others.
- To know how to help themselves and others, when they feel upset or are hurt.

### Communication and Language

- Be able to explain some different lifecycles (sunflower, frog, butterfly)
- Name and sort a range of living things.
- Talk about the differences in environments and animal habitats.
- Engage in meaningful conversation with others.
- Explain some consequences that actions can have (littering, recycling etc.)

### Physical Development – Coordination

- To explore using hand and sports equipment, either individually or with a partner.
- To develop hand/eye coordination using equipment.
- To develop foot/eye coordination using equipment.
- To explore and develop the use of coordination using unilateral movements (one limb) and bilateral movements (both limbs working together).

### Understanding the World

- Geography - Talk about the impact of human action on the seas e.g. plastic pollution (Text: Someone Swallowed Stanley, Dear Greenpeace)
- Geography - Explore our local environment and what grows here that of another country (Text: Handa's Surprise)
- Science – insect and animal life cycles - find minibeasts and create habitats for them.



# Term 5 – Summer '26

## All Creatures Great and Small

### Expressive Art and Design

- Sculpting - Clay – minibeasts/animals – with natural materials for detail.
- Joining – tying knots using different materials.
- Textiles - sewing – making bunting.

### R.E. - World Faith stories

- Which stories are special and why?

### Literacy

- Our focus texts for this term will include a variety of Eric Carle stories plus the Vivian French books, Caterpillar Butterfly and Yucky Worms. These final stories provide a useful contrast between fiction and non-fiction in the same text. We will expand our vocabulary – learning new words like insect, cocoon, nocturnal etc. We will also ask and answers questions about different minibeasts, using how, when, what, why and where words to classify them and learn how we can identify which are insects. We will go on minibeast hunts and learn to care for the creatures we find, creating minibeast hotels. As the children develop their knowledge, they will write for purposes such as labelling, lists, questions and answers and some facts.

### Phonics

- Short vowels - CVCC words, CCVC words, CCVCC, CCCVC, CCCVCC words, longer words, compound words, root words ending in ing, ed /t/, ed /id/ /ed/, est
- Tricky words – said, so, have, like, some, come, love, do, were, here, little, says, there, when, what, one, out, today

### Key Dates

#### Forest School Parent Sharing sessions

- Mr. Redpath's Class (Elm Class) – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May – morning session – 9.30-10.30am.
- Mrs Ellison-Jones' Class (Ash Class) – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May – afternoon session – 1.30-2.30pm.

### Maths

- To consolidate counting skills, counting to larger numbers and practising a range of counting strategies.
- The magnitude of number will be explored, for example, 8 being quite a lot more than 2, but 4 being just a little bit more than 2.
- To continue focusing on our knowledge of number facts.
- To use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities.