



Little Gems Class Newsletter

Working together to

inspire nurture empower

Spring 1—January 2025

Welcome Back & Updates

Hello Little Gems Families and welcome back after the Christmas break!

This half term our theme will be 'Rumble in the Jungle' We are having a wonderful time bringing the jungle to life in the classroom! As always, if you have any questions or want to share some exciting things your child has been doing at home, feel free to share on EFL. You can email me at ruby.rogers@ivy.set.org



Key Concepts and Skills

In Little Gems Class, we follow the Early Years Framework which has 7 subject areas, Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED), Literacy, Maths (Cognition), Expressive Arts and Understanding the World. Your children will experience a wide variety of lessons and activities which cover these areas.

This half term, our topic is called "Rumble in the Jungle" . . . Our main focus is on building relationships with our pupils to ensure they can achieve their potential. **Please remember to look at Evidence for Learning to see what your child is learning at school!**

Reminders / additional information



If it is appropriate for your child to have snack, please use our ParentPay app to pay for it. We have a range of snack options, including yoghurts, crisps, biscuits and juice.

This half term our hydro days are **Wednesday** and **Thursday** but please send in your child's kit at the beginning of the week as we may take them in whenever there is a space, please include a costume/trunks, 2 towels and some body wash/shampoo. Please remember to send in a change of clothes for your child each day, thank you.



Cognition and Maths

For Cognition, you could feel the texture of a range of tactile jungle animal figures and texture such as leaves.



You can also read the "Animal Habitat" story massage on the next page.

PSED



For PSED You could Provide praise when children make progress in social or emotional tasks (like taking turns or showing interest in others).

You could encourage your child to explore their expressions using a mirror. This encourages self-awareness and helps children recognize different emotions in themselves and others.

Communication

For Communication, You can read the 'Down in the Jungle story massage on the next but one page.

You can do some animal sounds and see if your child looks towards a picture or a puppet of what song they want next! Does your child indicate they want more? Do they indicate they like specific songs?

We are hoping to get onto the library train very soon!

Expressive Art and Design

You could listen to some jungle music, and explore various musical instruments that mimic jungle sounds—like drums, maracas, and tambourines.



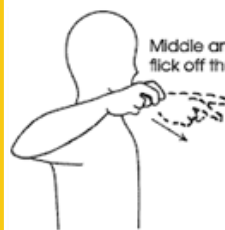
You could use various textures and materials (such as feathers, fabric, and paper), to help you create a jungle animal collage!

Literacy

We have been looking at simple books with animal pictures and using tactile books where children can feel different textures related to the jungle. You could try this at home.



Makaton Signs



Middle and index fingers flick off thumb making a 'V'

Snake















Cupped hand shows shape of trunk

Elephant

Animal Habitats

Written for the Story Massage Programme










www.storymassage.co.uk

	Jamie was feeling bored at home. He wanted to live somewhere else. So, he visited his animal friends in their homes.
	Rabbit lived in a hole underground called a burrow. Rabbit had to dig it with his own paws.
	Jamie didn't want to live there.
	Camel lived in the dessert where it was very, very hot. Camel went to sleep standing up.
	Jamie didn't want to live there.
	Polar Bear lived in the Artic where it was very, very cold. Polar Bear had to wear a coat of very thick fur to stay warm.
	Jamie didn't want to live there.
	Frog lived near a pond to keep his skin wet. Frog ate insects like flies and moths.
	Jamie didn't want to live there.
	Koala lived at the top of a Eucalyptus tree in a forest. Koala's favourite food was leaves from the tree. She ate lots and lots of leaves.
	Jamie didn't want to live there.
	'I like my home best' said Jamie. "I don't want to live anywhere else."

Down in the Jungle

Adapted for the Story Massage Programme

www.storymassage.co.uk

	Down in the jungle where nobody goes.
	There's a great grey elephant washing his clothes.
	With a rub-a-dub here And a rub-a-dub there.
	That's how an elephant washes his clothes.
	He goes stomp, stomp a boogie boogie woogle. Stomp, stomp a boogie boogie woogle.
	That's how an elephant washes his clothes.
	<i>Repeat with:</i>
	Cheeky little monkey
	Slithering snake
	Happy snappy crocodile