



Shaw
Education
Trust

Rubies Class Newsletter

Working together to

inspire nurture empower

Autumn 1 September 2026

Hello & Updates

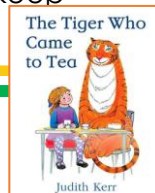
Hello Families! Welcome back! I hope you have all had a wonderful six weeks and are feeling excited and ready to start a new school year! I am thrilled to be the Rubies class teacher for this year, and I cannot wait to start the year with your wonderful children! This year will be filled with fun filled learning, exploration, curiosity and adventure! This half term we will be focusing on getting to know each other in class as well as the timetable and daily routines, as well as of course lots of fun filled learning! Evidence for Learning (EfL) is a great way to see photos and videos of your child's learning, achievements and what they get up to within school, so if you haven't already, please be sure to make sure you can log into this and keep an eye out for lots of lovely photos and videos! We also have social media pages where the school post photos of pupils they have permission of, so keep your eye out for lots of updates on there! Amy Roland amy.roland@ivy.set.org



Key Concepts and Skills

This half term, our topic is "The Lion King". We will explore a wide range of learning opportunities linked to the story, including African animals, different climates and habitats, African music and sounds, and the natural world. We will be exploring the book 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' by Judith Kerr, using it as a starting point for a range of engaging and meaningful experiences. Our key focus this half term will be developing the pupils' sensory exploration, communication, interaction and engagement. We will use the five senses – smell, taste (if appropriate), sight, sound and touch – to help bring both our topic and our story to life and create a rich, multisensory learning environment. For example, they may explore soft fur and rough materials when learning about different African animals, listen and respond to African drums and other animal sounds, and experience the smells and, where appropriate for individual pupils, tastes of foods associated with the topic.

Through these experiences, we will encourage pupils to develop their awareness of the world around them, make choices, communicate their preferences and responses, interact with their peers and adults, and develop their confidence in exploring new experiences.



Reminders / additional information



This half term your child's hydro day be on **Tuesday**, but please send in your child's swimming 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.



Our Library day is **Wednesday**, please send in your child's library book so we can change it each week. Please remember to send in a change of clothes for your child each day as we may get messy throughout the day or they may need to change if they have soiled their clothes. Thank you.

Home Learning Curriculum Ideas



Cognition and Maths

Pupils will have regular opportunities to explore cause and effect, discovering that their actions can make something happen. This will include using accessible technology such as switches, exploring activities from helpkidzlearn, knocking down towers and objects, creating sounds and music using their bodies and much more. A lot of these activities will be linked to our 'The Lion King' topic, helping pupils to develop their understanding through familiar and motivating experiences. We will also be doing lots of expressive arts where we can work on understanding of cause and effect, such as mark making and exploring different material related to their topic.

At home, you could use a drum to explore together to experiment with sounds. You could scratch, pat, bang or stroke the drum together and listen to the different sounds it makes. You could make drums have quieter sounds and then louder sounds.

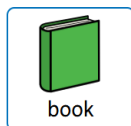


Communication



Some stories that you could enjoy together at home that link to our current topic are:

- The Tiger Who Came to Tea – Judith Kerr
- How to Be a Lion – Ed Vere
- The Lion Inside – Rachel Bright



To support communication, you could allow the pupils to choose which book they wanted from a choice of two using their preferred communication method e.g. eye gaze, pointing, vocalisations etc. Throughout the story you could explore sounds that the different animals make and encourage them to use their voice to vocalise them too! Do they show if they like/dislike the book? How do they do this?



PSED

This half term, our PSHE focus is to do with self care, looking after ourselves and the people who look after us. Just a reminder if you haven't already please could you send me photos of who looks after your child and a voice recording or video of these people saying anything for part of the lesson. Thank you to those who have already. During self care time, why not use a mirror so that your child can see themselves helping to brush their teeth or their hair?



Physical Development



During your physio times, incorporating some fun and different activities be a fun way of exploring the Lion King theme whilst working on your physical development! You could stretch tall like a giraffe, roll like a crocodile, stomp like a rhino!



You could also have fine and gross motor activities where you explore lots of sensory based activities such as scrunching leaves (jungle), water play (watering hole), jelly & wiggly worm exploration for the bugs!

Expressive Arts

Expressive arts is a great way to explore topics, why not try painting on different textures that represent different animals as a fun way to explore how the different animals feel? Sandpaper could be for a rhino, fur for lion etc.

