

# Curriculum Newsletter

## Reception

### Spring 2

### Animals



Our topic this term is Animals. We will begin our topic with the launch of Dinosaurs! We will learn facts about dinosaurs and develop our vocabulary when learning them! We will also learn about farm animals, polar animals and minibeasts. Children will look at classifying minibeasts in different ways for example, can they wings? Do they have fly?

Children will continue to learn their phonics sounds following the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds progression. Children have now learnt phase 2 and 3 graphemes, so will continue to learn to read and write longer words.

#### Goldilocks words:

*The Goldilocks words are the key vocabulary the children will learn, understand and be able to use by the end of the topic. They are called Goldilocks words as they are not too easy, not too hard, but just right!*

extinct adventure

habitat precious

survive investigate

#### Ideas for home learning:

- Listen to stories or research about animal and learn about their habitats.
- Make a fact book about your favourite animal!
- Practise recognising numbers to 20 and ordering them.
- Draw your favourite animals– focusing on the detail.

#### Key messages:

P.E. will be on Fridays for both classes. Children will need to come into school in their PE kits.

Please send your child in with a water bottle every day and a spare set of clothes to remain at school.

Please make sure that all items are clearly labelled with their name and class.

Children should have a two reading books, a reading for pleasure picture book and a and a phonics book.

Please record in your child's reading diary when you have read with your child.

Children will begin reading 3 times a week this half term so will need their bags in school everyday for us to be able to read with them and change books.

Please turn over to see the key skills the children will be learning in each subject area.

## Literacy

**In Literacy we will be:** Reading fiction and non-fiction books about animals, such as, All about Dinosaurs, Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs and What the Ladybird Heard.

We will continue to develop our letter formation when writing and begin to write on lines.

We will learn to write facts, putting our verbal sentences into written sentences. We will learn to write for different purposes such as, instructions, a letter, evidence forms, story writing, information book making.

**You can help your child by:** reading daily, practising the words in their workbook. It is also useful to get your child to practise writing the words. Please also practise sound recognition with the sounds in your child's red phonics book.

## Communication and Language

**We will be:** Learning new vocabulary and using this in our play Talking in full sentences

Sharing facts about animals

Using connectives such as, 'and' and 'because' to extend our verbal sentences.

Using descriptive language when describing animals and their habitats.

## Expressive arts and Design

**Making animals in a variety of ways exploring materials and texture.**

**We will focus on our drawing skills and adding detail to our drawings.**

**We will be exploring the roles of people that look after animals through play.**

**You can help your child by talking about the features of different animals, what they look like and maybe have a go at drawing some!**



## Physical Development

**In PE will be:** learning to move with speed in a variety of ways and to use spatial awareness and speed in tagging and gathering games. We will do this by using our topic as a stimulus for example children will move like a dinosaur!

We will also develop our gross motor skills in our outdoor area through climbing, obstacle courses, constructing with large objects and tyres.

We will also focus on using a tripod grip more consistently this half term to support us in forming letters correctly.

## Music

In Reception the children will be attending musicianship lessons every other Thursday to learn rhythm and patterns.

## Mathematics

**In Maths we will be:** Adding and subtracting numbers to 20 and using different ways to record our calculations.

Using vocabulary related to money. Comparing the volume of liquid in different containers using language related to capacity.

Compare the weights of objects using language related to weight.

Beginning to estimate how many objects there are.

Measuring objects using non-standard units and using language related to length.

**You can help your child by:** asking them to count out and add or takeaway using everyday objects; for example, when you are shopping or laying the table for dinner.

You can talk about everyday objects their shape and their properties.

## Understanding the World

**We will be:** continuing to think about the ways in which we look after and care for animals.

Encourage the children to look at the natural world around them by thinking about where animals live and where you would find them.

Learning about different animals in their different habitats

We will be learning all about dinosaurs and researching facts. We will also be looking at similarities and differences between dinosaurs.

We will also investigate the best way to melt ice

**You can help your child by:** talking to them about caring for others and what they can see in the world around them.

## PSED

**We will be:** Thinking about trying our best to have a go at all our learning activities. We will think about respecting our friends and adults through Rights Respecting: Article 29 Learning to care for animals. We will also be thinking about how our actions affect others. You can help your child by talking to them about their culture and helping them to find out about the country where they come from.