

Curriculum Newsletter

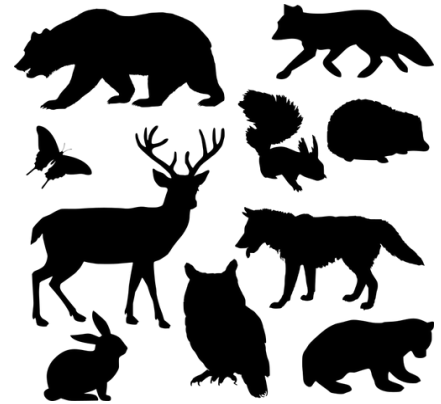
Reception

Spring 2 - Animals

Welcome to Reception! Our topic this term is Animals. We will be expanding our knowledge of the key features of different animals, what they eat and similarities and differences through a variety of exciting themes, focusing on animals from the ocean, dinosaurs, farm animals and more. We will be investigating animals with key texts such as: 'Harry and the Dinosaurs go to School', 'What the Ladybird Heard', 'Commotion in the Ocean', 'Sharing a Shell', 'Rainbow Fish', 'Tinga Tinga Tales', and 'Handa's Surprise'.

As part of this topic, the children will be thinking scientifically to investigate the differences between different animals and how this relates back to themselves. The children will be provided with an exciting range of activities to embed their learning such as: writing fact books about their favourite dinosaur/animal, creating and sharing a news report about the escape of our dinosaurs, writing an adventure story about Harry's missing dinosaur, labelling maps, creating their own stories about animals, and noting their observations during science experiments.

As part of our recovery curriculum and focus on wellbeing, we will have a strong focus on social and emotional needs upon the return to school through social stories, sharing time, our zones of regulation, worry boxes and circle times, so that the children settle back into the structure of the school day. The children will be continuing to learn to identify their own emotions and developing strategies for coping with difficult feelings and managing changes, as well as developing positive friendships. We are also continuing to read a range of books to engage the children in the pleasures of reading. The children will be reading books aimed at their current level of phonic knowledge as the term progresses. They will continue to develop their knowledge of sounds and become more confident in linking the sounds to letters, using their phoneme fingers more confidently and beginning to think about writing sentences using finger spaces, capital letters and the strategies that they have been taught in phonics and writing lessons.

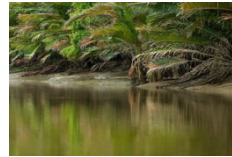


The STAR words that the children will learn, understand and be able to use by the end of the term are:

mammal



habitat



diet



extinct



fossil



minibeasts



You can help your child by:

Researching and observing animals in their natural habitat, sharing books centred around animals, asking questions about animals such as "What does it eat?", "What habitat does it live in?", "How is it similar or different to you?", asking your child to note down any observations of animals.

Key messages:

P.E for RCO and RLB will be on a Friday.

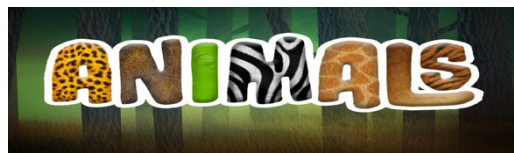
Please can children come into school in their school P.E kits on this day.

Reading books will be changed weekly on a **Monday** and **Tuesday**. Books will be reviewed and assigned on Bug Club weekly so please make sure that you are reading with your child.

Please ensure that your child has a spare set of clothes at school in case of any toilet accidents and their water bottle to keep in their locker with their name in. Please ensure that all jumpers and coats are clearly labelled with their name and class.

Reception

Spring 2 2021



In **Physical Development** we will be:

Developing our athletic skills. We will be focusing on races, coordination, skipping, throwing, catching and travelling in different ways.

We will continue to think about the things that help us to stay healthy.

P.E will be on Friday for both RCO and RLB.

You can help your child by supporting them with throwing and catching skills. Also, taking them to the park to practise running and moving in different ways.

In **Expressive Arts and Design** we will be:

Making animals in a variety of ways thinking about their features.

We will be doing observational drawings of animals and thinking about the different colours that we can see.

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 and possibly feel like and the different features they have such as fur, scales etc.

In **Maths** we will be:

Adding and subtracting numbers to 20 and using different ways to record our calculations, such as the part whole model.

Recognising the value of coins and exploring different combinations of coins.

Describing the capacities of objects and using language about capacity.

Compare the volume of liquid in different containers.

Compare the weights of objects and use language about weight.

Beginning to estimate how many objects there are.

Measuring objects using non-standard units and using language related to measuring accurately

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.

In **Understanding of the World:**

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

Reflecting how COVID-19 may have affected animals and what we can do to help.

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 look 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, comparing this with animals around the world.

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', and discussing these with your child.

Writing for a range of purposes such as information booklets, news reports and scientific observations.

Continuing to teach sounds in phonics and practise blending the letters together when we read, and segment them to spell. Children will learn to read words with more than one-syllable e.g., bedroom, pumpkin, raining.

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

You can help your child by reading daily and by practising words with phase 2 and 3 sounds in. As well as reading the words, it is useful to get your child to practise writing the words. **Please refer to the "Supporting your child in phonics at home" document on ParentHub and Google classroom for guidance.**

PLEASE REMEMBER TO READ WITH YOUR CHILD DAILY.

In **PSED** we will be:

Settling back into school routines

Recognising our emotions and how we regulate them.

We will think about respecting our friends and adults through Rights Respecting: Article 29

Learning to care for animals.

Thinking about how our actions affect others.

You can help your child by talking to them about how they are feeling about the current COVID-19 situation as well as who their friends are.