

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new half term. I hope you have all enjoyed a lovely week with your families and that the children are feeling refreshed for the new half term. It looks like this half term is going to be just as busy as the last one.

Topic

Our Topic in Reception for this half term is "Can Giraffe's Dance?" Please see the attached curriculum overview, which outlines what your child will be learning over the next few weeks. I have included as much information as possible so that you have some ideas of the activities your child might have been up to while in class or at home learning. Our main text for this half term is 'Giraffe's Can't Dance' by Giles Andreae. Other texts your child will explore are 'Dear Zoo', 'Elmer', 'Rumble in the Jungle' and a range of other zoo animal themed storybooks. We will also be looking at lots of non-fiction texts about zoo animals!



In the Early Years, planning from your child's interest is paramount for their development and enjoyment of each topic. To help with this we have included with this curriculum letter a 'planning map' for you to complete with your child. In the centre you will see our topic for this half term. Please can we ask you to have a short discussion with your child about what they would like to know about the different areas we are going to cover. From this we will then include these ideas in our planning so that your child receives a bespoke curriculum involving home, school and the child in the planning process. Many thanks for completing these for Spring term 2. We were able to weave quite a few ideas of what you child wanted to know into my planning and we asked lots of questions along the way.

Come and See (RE)



Our next 'Come and See' topic will be 'Good News'. During this topic children will know and understand that everyone has good news to share and Pentecost is the celebration of the good news of Jesus. Following this we will move on to the topic 'Friends'. Children will know and understand that Jesus had good friends and what Jesus tells us about friendships.

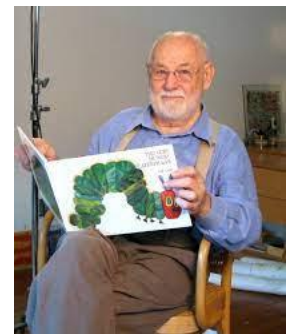


Vocabulary

Here is a list of Goldilocks words (words that are just right) for your children to learn over this next half term. The words are linked to our topic. [Habitat](#), [Nocturnal](#), [Endangered](#), [wild](#), [names of animals](#), [live](#), [on land](#), [in water](#), [jungle](#), [desert](#), [hot](#), [cold](#). Some extra words (step on words) that you may like to explore are [environment](#), [camouflage](#), [carnivore](#), [predator](#), [herbivore](#).

Author of the Half Term

Our Author for Summer Term is Eric Carle! We will be reading lots of stories by Eric Carle and learning one by heart.



A few notices:

- We have a fantastic EYFS team across the Nursery and Reception class at St Mary's. In the Reception class there are three adults this year - Mrs Ainscough & Mrs Cassidy as the class teachers and the very experienced and talented Teaching Assistants Mrs Swarbrick. Mrs Ainscough will be the Class teacher Monday - Thursday and Mrs Cassidy will be the Class teacher on Friday.
- All teachers have release time during the week for PPA (planning, preparation & assessment). Mrs Cassidy will be covering Mrs Ainscough's PPA time on a Thursday from 1.30 pm. Throughout the week we have small 'key worker' group time with either Mrs Ainscough, Mrs Cassidy or Mrs Swarbrick to sing songs/read stories/ opportunities for speaking and listening and 'Show and tell' including looking at 'magic' moments from home.
- The children will do **P.E.** every **Friday afternoon**; **please can you make sure your child comes to school in their PE kit every Friday.**
- Every day your child has access to a drink of milk after their lunch time. Please can you ensure that your child brings in a water bottle filled with water every day for them to access in the classroom.
- We offer toast as an additional morning snack which will be incorporated into your child's learning each day. The school office will send information out as to when this will be starting and you will pay for this termly if you so wish.
- **Please can your child bring their reading book every Monday so our helper can listen to them read.**

Outdoor Provision



Each day the children have access to outdoor provision which can get a little messy and wet. It is important that your child has a waterproof coat and wellies (which are to be left outside the Reception classroom) as we enjoy playing outside - whatever the weather! Please can you ensure that your child's belongings are **clearly labelled with their name.**



Weekend News

Weekend News will be continued in Summer Term 1 to develop the children's writing skills. Each week your child will be invited to write and draw a picture about what they have been doing at the weekend and outside of school. This will then be shared with the rest of the class during speaking & listening time. It may help your child if you have a brief chat with them about their weekend.

Magic Moments

'Magic Moments' are one way in which you can contribute to your child's learning journey. They are to be completed by an adult when you see your child do something that perhaps you haven't seen before or make you go 'wow' or smile. Please add a photo or comment on Tapestry of your child's magic moment for us to share.

Reading Books and Homework



Please can you ensure that your child brings their reading book and reading record book into school on the day stated below (they have a coloured sticker on their plastic book bag). Their reading book will be changed (if needed) on this day only. **Your child should read their book three times.**

Your child's reading book is important, however, this isn't the only book that they can read (or have a go at reading). Please encourage your child to read other books at home or in the library. If you wish to do so you can record the other books they are reading into their reading record book too. Homework is given out/uploaded onto Tapestry as and when your child's phonics teacher feels they have new learning to consolidate at home. This may be every day. Please can you upload your completed homework onto Tapestry. Thank you for all your support with homework!



| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| <u>Monday</u> | |
| <u>Tuesday</u> | RED |
| <u>Wednesday</u> | YELLOW |
| <u>Thursday</u> | GREEN |
| <u>Friday</u> | |

Tapestry

We hope you are still enjoying seeing all the exciting and fun learning activities your child is involved in while at school. You can also add your own contributions to Tapestry so we can see what your child has been learning at home too! Please ask if you would like any help in doing this.

Stay and Play

This half terms stay and play is focused on our outdoors! This will take place on Thursday 9th May 2024 in the afternoon. Look out for a separate message with more details.

If you have any questions about anything please feel free to catch us at the door at the beginning or at the end of the day. We are always happy to talk.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Lisa Ainscough & Mrs Nicola Cassidy

Class Teachers

With Christ We Live, We Love, We Learn, We Grow



Mathematical Development (MD)

Pupils will consolidate their counting skills, counting to larger numbers and developing a wider range of counting strategies. They will secure knowledge of number facts through varied practice.

Pupils will:

- continue to develop their counting skills, counting larger sets as well as counting actions and sounds
- explore a range of representations of numbers, including the 10-frame, and see how doubles can be arranged in a 10-frame
- compare quantities and numbers, including sets of objects which have different attributes
- continue to develop a sense of magnitude, e.g. knowing that 8 is quite a lot more than 2, but 4 is only a little bit more than 2 begin to generalise about 'one more than' and 'one less than' numbers within 10
- continue to identify when sets can be subitised and when counting is necessary
- develop conceptual subitising skills including when using a rekenrek

Understanding of the World (UW)

Finding out information about animals

Naming animals

What do animals eat?

Animal habitats

How to be a zookeeper

Safety around the zoo & wild animals

Adult and baby animals

Zoo animals - grouping by different characteristics. Which animals live at the zoo?

Different jobs at the zoo

Sorting animals according to where they live hot or cold places,

Plotting where animals originate from

Look at where the different continents and oceans are. Compare some contrasting places such as Arctic regions, rainforests and safari areas and the animals that live there.

Layers of the rainforest

What the African Savannah is like

Comparing Kenya and Chorley

Physical Development (PD)

- Kneading dough – dough gym
- Moving like animals
- Building homes for animals
- Building a zoo
- Fine motor activities – building giraffes, threading, weaving, building cages

Summer Term 1 Can Giraffe's dance?

Expressive Arts & Design (EAD)

- Printing animal patterns
- Drawing animals
- Small world zoo, jungle
- Vets in the home corner - looking after sick and injured animals
- Printing animal shapes
- Animal songs & poems
- Junk model animals
- Making shoebox animal habitats
- Tiger painting - shaving cream marbling
- Handanimals
- Pom-pom Elmer the elephant
- Bubble wrap printing crocodile skin
- Vegetable printing
- Crocodile bubbling swamp

Personal, Social & Emotional Development (PSED)

- Caring for living things
- Talking about own animals
- Talking about experiences of animals, zoos, farms etc...
- Safety at the zoo
- Elmer story (being different)
- Importance of picking up litter

Communication and Language (CL) and Literacy (L)

- Looking at pictures of animals and discussing
- Describing hidden animals to guess
- Animal initial eye spy game
- Animal songs & poems
- Animal themed stories (Dear Zoo, Zog & the Flying Doctor, Rumble in the jungle, Giraffe's can't dance, The Animal Boogie)
- Name writing (first & last)
- Oral blending & segmenting
- Writing CVC and CVCC words
- Writing captions, labels and short sentences
- Writing with birds feather
- Writing letters to the zoo, recount of our trip, shopping lists,
- Taking care of animals in the home role play - pets