

Topic Overview for Parents

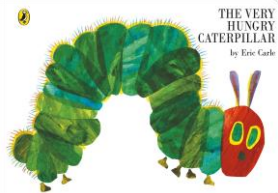
Term- Summer 1

Welcome to our new topic, **‘Amazing Animals’**



This half term the children will be learning all about the incredible range of animals we have on our planet. They will get the opportunity to watch a butterfly life cycle in action when we have our live eggs delivered after the Easter holiday. The children will be using their writing skills to keep diaries of their progress. They will also learn how to ask and answer questions when they are visited by a range of other amazing animals!

TOPIC	Enquiry Question	Sparkly Starter
Amazing Animals	What makes animals amazing?	Tapestry- videos / photos of pets / favourite animals for children to show Oracy focus: can the children speak in full sentences using a range of descriptive vocabulary to describe their pets? Oceanarium trips – Wednesday 22 nd April & Friday 24 th April Butterfly lifecycle kits – arriving in the first couple of weeks

Story Maker	Key Literature	Fab Finish
The Very Hungry Caterpillar 	The Very Hungry Caterpillar (Story Maker / life cycles / healthy eating) The Bad Tempered Ladybird (time) The Teeny Weeny Tadpole (lifecycles) The Crunching, Munching Caterpillar (lifecycles) The Ugly Duckling (lifecycles)	Pet visitors- tbc.

Literacy

In Literacy this half term the children will be learning the story of ‘The Very Hungry Caterpillar’ during their story maker sessions. This will be to help children develop their love of stories, use of capital letters for days of the week, as well as their story vocabulary.

We will be focussing on using our phonic knowledge to decode more complex words using the special friends ‘ay’, ‘ee’, ‘igh’, ‘ow’, ‘oo’, ‘ar’, ‘or’, ‘air’, ‘ir’, ‘ou’ and ‘oy’ as well as using the red words learnt so far to read and understand simple sentences. When writing, the children will be using their sounds to write more complex words and sentences using the red words and special friend sounds taught so far. We continue to encourage children to use the correct letter formation to ensure their writing can be read by themselves and others.

Maths

During this term the children will be learning to recognise and write numbers to 20. They will be adding and subtracting using numbers from 10 to 20 and will be taught a range of mathematical vocabulary associated with calculation, patterns, 3D shapes, positional language, money and time.

Creative Arts and PSHCE

In our Story Maker sessions, the children will be learning how to act out the story of the ‘The Very Hungry Caterpillar’ and also use their imaginations to come up with suggestions for other foods he could eat.

In PSHE ‘SCARF’ sessions the children will be discussing the theme of ‘Being My Best’ and how to build their confidence, self-esteem and resilience.

Understanding the World

The children will be learning about the incredible range of animals we have on our planet. They will use non-fiction books to research their favourite animals to then write a page for a class book.

They will have the opportunity to see life cycles in action as well as hopefully some other amazing animals close up.

Physical Development

During P.E. lessons, the children will be learning how to move their bodies with increasing control by changing the speed and direction of travel. They will learn how to send and receive small apparatus and will be taught how to play a range of games involving catching, avoiding others and finding a space.

Home learning

It has been fantastic to see so many children reading regularly and completing their phonics 'Learn to Read' work.

Please help your child to practise reading their red words on the minibeast tracking sheet in their reading diary. These will be assessed regularly to check progress and a new sheet will be added once the previous one has been completed. Once your child can read the words on all four of the red word castles, their next challenge will be to spell these words.

Home learning:

- Our new topic this half term is 'Amazing Animals'. To help spark the children's interest we would be very grateful if anyone with a pet could upload a photo or video of them onto Tapestry for your child to talk about in class. This is a great opportunity to help develop the children's vocabulary and oracy skills, when either speaking to the class or learning how to listen to others and ask questions.
- If you do not have a pet and your child would still like to talk to the class, they could put a picture onto Tapestry of their favourite animal or a photo of an amazing animal they have seen e.g. at a zoo.

Tapestry

- To help us to get an accurate picture of your child's development, we strongly encourage you to celebrate your child's achievements with us through Tapestry as it is important that we have a balance of 'wow' moments from home as well as from school. Examples of 'wow' moments from home could be riding a bike for the first time, recognising numbers up to 20 when out and about or using their measuring skills to weigh out the ingredients to make their own gingerbread biscuits.

Other Information

Library books, reading books and reading records

- Please ensure these are kept in bookbags. Library books will be changed on Tuesdays. When this is not possible, it will be on an alternative day. New library books will not be issued until the previous ones have been returned.
- Regular reading- please make time to read with your child at least three times a week and write this in their reading diary. Reading records are checked each week and every Friday, all the children who have read three or more times at home will go into a reading raffle to win a prize.

Dates for this term

Monday 13th April- First day back after the Easter break. Rest and rest day

Wednesday 22nd April- Oceanarium trip for Dragonflies and Group A of the Ladybirds

Friday 24th April – Oceanarium trip for Caterpillars and Group B of the Ladybirds

Monday 4th May – May Bank Holiday

Friday 22nd May- last day of school before half term break

Monday 1st June- INSET day (school closed)

Tuesday 2nd June- children start back at school

Many thanks for your continued support

The Reception Team

