Early Years Topic Letter – Spring 1 2022

AMAZING ANIMALS!

 

Welcome back to what looks like another busy term! I hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas and a well earned rest.

This half terms topic is amazing animals, so some of the stories and texts we will be focusing our learning around are – Aaaarrghhh Spider and The Tiger who came to tea alongside many others that I am sure the children will lead us to with their curiosity. We will also be sharing lots of non-fiction texts about animals to find out lots of facts!

**Gentle reminders:**
Please continue to support us as we work hard to keep your children safe, we will be continuing to run things like we did in the last half term. Please remember only one adult should be dropping off or picking your child up from school to reduce numbers on our school site. We really appreciate your support. Drop off for all children is 8.45am (prompt please as this allows our day to run smoothly, so we can settle children into their new routines.) Pick up is 3.15pm or 12noon if your child goes home after lunch. Please remember not to come onto school site until the buses have left the front, this is for your and your child's safety.

Please remember a waterproof coat at all times, we go out in all weathers! As the weather has changed and is now colder a hat, scarf and gloves may be needed, water bottles and spare clothes in your child’s bag are also essential please as we are unable to use school spare clothing. Please make sure every item of clothing and water bottle is clearly marked with your child’s name. This makes it easier for us to make sure items are not lost and are reunited with their owner quickly.

Please remember to log onto your child’s tapestry account regularly, this will help you to see what your child’s next steps are and will help you to support your child’s learning. Further to this, it is a lovely way to see what we have been up to and talk about school with your children. Don’t forget to upload achievements and experiences at home. For reception children reading at home and practising our RWI sounds remains the main focus. Reading at home really does make a BIG difference, please try and read with your child daily. Please do write in your child’s reading record when you practise these things at home and make any notes, this is really useful for us to see how you are getting on at home.

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| Personal, Social and Emotional DevelopmentWe will reinforce positive behaviour at all times in EYFS. Supporting the children to develop their personal, social and emotional development is at the core of what we do in every way.This half term we will place particular emphasis on:Good to be me Feelings Learning about qualities and differences Celebrating differencesIdentify and moderate their own feelings socially and emotionally.Encourage them to think about their own feelings and those of others by giving explicit examples of how others might feel in particular scenarios. | Physical DevelopmentThis half term we will be continuing to develop our independence! We will be working on putting our own shoes or wellies on, going to the toilet, identifying when we need our nappy changes, putting our coat on, peeling our fruit and putting our straw in our milk! You can help at home by supporting your child to get dressed by themselves and have a go at putting their coat on before you help them. You can also support them to wash their hands.We will also be working hard to develop our fine motor and gross motor skills. We will be doing this through our dough disco and ‘squiggle while you wiggle’ sessions as well as daily name writing for nursery and writing in reception.We will promote gross motor activities like climbing, jumping, running, throwing and catching through physical activities and when using our climbing frame and the cars and bikes. We will also be continuing with our PE session using skills we have learnt previously and we will be joining in with dance sessions taught by the NUFC, this is very exciting.We will be taking part in lots of fine motor activities which will help to develop the strength in our fingers, and support us to hold a pencil effectively. These will include things like pinching, threading, using pegs, twisting, brushing, stacking and using tweezers. We will be developing our pencil control and Reception will be focussing on accurate letter formation in our names and other words. In Nursery, if we are ready we will also be working hard to write our names. |
| REThis half term Reception will take part in RE sessions and our main focus this term will continue to be Christianity and God, we will also look at festivals and celebrations.We will be learning:To know what we need to keep us happy and stay alive (friends, family, love, food etc)To have an awareness of why people are grateful to God for things which make us happy.To know what God meansTo understand that Christians see God as a loving and special friend.To understand that some people worship different Gods.To know what worship is.To have an awareness of ways that we can worship.To be able to recall some of a story about God. | Communication and LanguageWe develop the children’s listening and attention, understanding and speaking skills all of the time and often based on your child’s next steps as the children often have specific areas to work on. This half term we will be focusing on:Learning the story of ‘Aaaarrghh Spider’ and ‘The Tiger Who Came To Tea’ off by heart through our Talk4Writing approach and learn new vocabulary in relation to the story and characters.Singing and learning lots of new and familiar nursery rhymes.Having two channelled attention, being able to listen and ‘do’ at the same time.Reception children will be focusing on:CVC blending and segmenting, writing captions and ditty work.Looking closely at ‘special friends’ and ‘digraphs’.Beginning to learn set 2 sounds – ay,ee,igh,ow.oo….Recapping set 1 sounds.Learning our tricky red words. |

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| Reception LiteracyThis half term in Reception we will continue to learn RWInc set 1 sounds and begin to learn the set 2 sounds through short and snappy ‘speed sounds’ sessions each morning. We will continue to send new sounds home as they are taught. Please support us and practise these at home, little and often is key and really does make a big difference. If you can pop a little note in your child’s reading record with what you have done and how they have got on, this is a good way to communicate between home and school as well as tapestry. I do check each child's home reading record every day.We will also continue to introduce new red words this half term such as ‘my’ ‘me’ etc. These words are words that cannot be sounded out and they just need to be learnt by sight. Again those we have looked at in school will be sent home in your child’s wallet.We will be developing our writing skills this half term so that children can continue to label pictures and write for various purposes using initial sounds and single words. It is very important as children pick up the sounds in Read, Write, Inc that they practise forming them correctly, starting in the correct place, this is why the corresponding RWI rhymes are useful and important. We will be developing our ‘Talk 4 Writing’ skills this half term by linking lots of what we do to our focus texts ‘Aaarrgghh Spider’ and ‘The Tiger Who Came to tea’ We will be learning to retell the stories by creating story maps, learning actions and taking part in lots of fun activities relating to the texts.We will be writing questions asking what we would like to find out about certain animals, we will then write some facts that we have found out as well as writing key parts of the stories we have read and labelling pictures. |
| Nursery LiteracyThis half term in Nursery we will focus on learning and retelling familiar and new Nursery rhymes. We will be sharing our focus texts of ‘Aaarrrgghh Spider’ and ‘The Tiger who came for tea’ as we take part in many activities linked to the stories and we will learn to retell the stories and put actions to them. We will work on having a go at writing our names and developing our mark making skills. This half term we will be placing our emphasis on creating confident mark maker’s, allowing the children to explore the different marks they make using a variety of tools including chalk, pens, pencils, crayons, water and in sensory trays. We will take part in ‘Squiggle While you Wiggle’ sessions to help us to develop our early writing skills in an energetic and fun way. We will also be promoting drawing and supporting the children to talk about what they have drawn and the marks they have made.PictureWe will take part in short daily phase one phonics sessions which will help us to develop our sound discrimination and listening skills. This half term we will be focussing on body percussion and rhythm and rhyme. Key vocabulary: fiction, non-fiction, rhyme. |

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| Nursery MathsMaths happens all day in Early Years, during theregister, at snack time and while the children play. Before the day has even started we have counted and added up how many children we have at school and recorded this using Numicon and on tens frames.This half term we will focus on:Counting up to 5 objects accuratelyMatching amounts of objects to numicon piecesBeginning to recognise numeralsContinue to develop 2D shape knowledgeSecure positional languageKey vocabulary: how many? More, less, bigger, smaller, tall, short, number, same, different, first, next, last, circle, triangle, square, rectangle, behind, on top, in front, next to, under. | Reception MathsMaths happens all day in Early Years. Each morning at register time, we will count how many children we have, add them up and record this using numicon and number sentences before our day has even started! Maths is covered in all areas of the provision but we also take part in short directed Maths activity each day. The children can then apply the skills they have used in the provision.This half term we will focus on:Numbers 5,6,7,8Addition and subtraction, number bonds to 5, combining two groupsKey vocabulary: same, different, more, less, bigger, smaller, equal, add, addition, plus, take away, subtract, subtraction, minus, number, amount, quantity, circle, triangle, square, rectangle, fewer, number bonds, part whole model. |
| Expressive, Art and DesignThis term the children will have the opportunity to: Look at Rousseau’s Tiger / animal prints /Designing homes for hibernating animals.Creating collages.Children will be encouraged to select the tools and techniques they need to assemble materials that they are using e.g creating animal masks.Making lanterns, Chinese writing, puppet making, Chinese music and composition.Shadow Puppets Teach children different techniques for joining materials, such as how to use adhesive tape and different sorts of glue and split pins. | Understanding the WorldThis term we will be: Listening to stories and placing events in chronological order. What can we do here to take care of animals in the jungle?Compare animals from a jungle to those on a farm. Explore a range of jungle animals. Learn their names and label their body parts. Nocturnal Animals- making sense of different environments and habitats. Use images, video clips, shared texts and other resources to bring the wider world into the classroom. Listen to children describing and commenting on things they have seen whilst outside, including plants and animals. After close observation, draw pictures of the natural world, including animals and plantsKey vocabulary: environment, habitat, same, different, nocturnal, diurnal, day, night, animal, world, animal names. |