

Early Years

We hope you have all had a fantastic Christmas and that you are refreshed and looking forward to the New Year. We would like to say a warm welcome to our new starters this January who we are thrilled to have joining our Early Years class.

We hope you found the recent Parent Workshop 'Supporting your Child at Home with Phonics and Reading' useful. If you do have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Here are just a few reminders and dates for this half term.

- PE for reception will take place on a Tuesday morning 10-11a.m. so please can you make sure children have the full PE kit with them.
- Please bear in mind we will still be encouraging outdoor learning and therefore feel it is important that children have a waterproof coat, hat scarf and mittens with them as well as a change of clothes if your child were to get wet or muddy. Helping your child dress themselves for outdoors independently is also very useful.
- There will be a **Stay and Play** session on **25th January 2017 at 9:30am to 10:30am**. This is an alternative to a class assembly, please come and enjoy a sneaky peak of what your child gets up to at school. This is open to parents who already have children within our Early Years class and younger siblings as well as being open to potential new parents and children. For the Stay and Play session, children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite animal.
- You may also find what we get up to during term time on the school website with photos being added weekly so please do have a look!
- We hope you are continuing to enjoy school 360 with your child.

As always if you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate in speaking to one of us.

Hannah Todd and Toni Dick.



A photo from our Nativity and Carol Service at Church.



Animals around the world!



This term in Personal, Social and Emotional Development the children will be learning to:

- We will be promoting good relationships within our class and expect the children to play with a range of children and initiate conversations with them.
- Resolve our own conflicts more independently.
- Share our knowledge and ask questions to other children.
- Share and take turns.
- Try new activities and vary what we play with during our Animals around the world topic.
- We will be able to describe ourselves in a positive way and share our own desires and opinions.
- Continuing to follow and engaging in daily routines.

In Expressive Art and Design this term the children will have the opportunity to:

- Imitate movement in relation to music, they will move in different ways like different animals.
- Investigate mixing colours, for example - How can we paint a tiger with no orange paint?
- Mark make throughout all areas of our environment and topic.
- Use different techniques and materials to create a variety of art work from around the world.
- Focus on improving skills such as cutting with scissors.
- Learn new songs and dances and use instruments to accompany these, thinking about rhythm.
- Introduce storylines and narrative when playing with other children who are using the home kitchen area or the jungle explorers role play area.
- Build stories around toys and use available resources to create props to support their role play.

In Physical Development this term the children will be:

- Reception will be developing their throwing and catching skills through PE lessons this half term.
- Experimenting with different ways of moving during our animal topic.
- Developing their fine motor skills through various activities relating to the topic.
- Developing their fine motor and gross motor skills through Dough Disco.
- Developing their gross motor skills by using our outdoor environment enabling us to climb and explore.
- Becoming aware of the effect that exercise has on their body, how they feel and how it helps them to keep healthy.
- Nursery will begin to form recognisable letters and using these to write their name.

In Literacy this term:

- Reception will continue with Read Write Inc phonics daily, to help them to continue to learn new letter sounds and use these to support both their reading and writing.
- Nursery will take part in daily early phonics.
- Reception will continue to take home their reading book this half term, and their high frequency words to learn.
- Children will be given continuous opportunities to mark make and develop pencil control and give meaning to their drawings, paintings and writing.
- Children will be developing their letter formation when learning about animals from around the world..
- Children will have focused and independent opportunities to develop their writing through out the topic. This term we will be promoting more independent writing from Reception.
- Enhancing their speaking and listening during role play in our home area, jungle role play area and during topic circle time.
- We will be thinking about alliteration and rhyming words.
- We will be focusing on particular story books such as 'Rumble in the Jungle', 'Dear Zoo' and 'Monkey Puzzle' relating to different animals, and will use these to create story maps.
- The children will have the opportunity to read and share non fiction books, informing us about different animals.

This term within mathematics the children will be taking part in:

- Number songs relating to the animal topic.
- Daily counting/number recognition (1-50)
- Identifying numbers and shapes around us and in the environment.
- Ordering numbers.
- Number formation.
- Nursery will take part in daily number time with counting croc to develop number recognition and counting.
- Nursery will learn about positional language and use the language of size and capacity during play which will be enhanced by an adult (For example, is the tiger smaller than the elephant?).
- Mathematical language will be continuously used and promoted during children's independent play.
- Learning days of the week, months and seasons during our calendar each morning.
- Thinking about one more and one less than a given number and using practical techniques to add during everyday situations, such as counting the children each morning and adding the girls and the boys.
- Comparing groups of objects, identifying which has more and when there is the same amount.
- Matching the quantity to numerals.
- Reception will be covering the following areas in their Maths lessons this half term - understanding teen numbers, symmetry, repeating patterns, problem solving, identifying odd and even numbers, counting in 2s, number pairs to 10, the concept of halving and doubling, recognising how time is measured and identifying 3D shapes.

In Communication and Language this term children will be:

- Developing our concentration skills in sessions and during assemblies.
- Developing our listening skills and using these to follow two part instructions.
- Continue to sing songs and nursery rhymes.
- Using past, present and future events when talking about their own experiences.
- Using two channelled attention, listening and 'doing' at the same time.
- Listening to a variety of stories with increasing attention.
- The children will be using 'why' and 'how' questions as we begin to investigate and learn about animals from different places around the world.
- The children will use language to imagine and recreate role in play situations.
- Can organise their thoughts and share their experiences and ideas clearly, using sentences.

In Understanding The World children will have the opportunity to:

- Learn about different countries and cultures alongside learning about animals from different areas of the world.
- Consider similarities and differences between animals and how this helps them. For example, how are penguins, polar bears and camels different and what features do they have that help them survive where they live.
- Consider why things happen and how things work.
- Show care and concern for living things and think about how we can be considerate to them.
- Understand changes in the environment and how this is different in other countries, for example - different climates.
- Use a computer, with the help of a teacher, to research a fact about an animal to help them understand information can be retrieved from a computer.
- Watch a documentary on Polar animals and mark make to record what they have learnt.
- Use I pads and the IWB to independently use a programme such as 2Simple and create their own images of animals.