

Reception Curriculum Information – Summer 1 2024 – Animal Safari



This half term our Learning Project is 'Animal Safari'. This project will teach the children about the animals that live around the world, how to look after animals and the importance of caring for our local and global environments.

We will be launching this project with a '**Memorable Experience**'. Aquatic Finatic will be visiting us on Monday 15th April at 1:30pm. They will be bringing a variety of animals including a snake, a tortoise, a lizard, a chinchilla, an owl, a guinea pig, a tarantula...and more!

Physical Development: Gross motor skills

Our indoor PE will be **Manipulation & Coordination** on a Monday and **Speed Agility Travel** on a Thursday.

Please wear P.E kits to school on the days that we have P.E lessons.

P.E kits should consist of a white t-shirt, black/navy shorts and trainers. On colder days, your child may wear a matching black/navy tracksuit or black/navy joggers or leggings with a school jumper. Any child with long hair must have it tied back on P.E. days. Earrings must be removed at home on P.E. days, or covered with tape (provided by parents/ carers).

Physical Development: Fine motor skills

The children will be invited to 'draw like a scientist'. We will look closely at [Animal illustrations picture cards](#). The children will be taught that zoologists are scientists that study animals who would make careful drawings of animals to record what they looked like in the past because they didn't have cameras to take photographs. They will be provided with paper and a range of drawing pencils and invited to make close observational drawings of different animals, looking carefully at the various features as they draw.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



This half term the children will be exploring the unit '**Building relationships: My family and friends**'. In this unit, children will learn how we all have different beliefs and celebrations, what characteristics make a good friend, and how we need to listen to one another.

Religious Education

The children will be exploring the big question, '**What is special about our world and why?**'. This unit begins with a focus on the natural world. The children will be encouraged to experience the nature around them and reflect upon the natural world for themselves. The unit provides a basis for thinking about how the world was created and understanding that many religious people believe that God designed and created it. The creation story from Genesis is introduced alongside two stories from Islam focusing on care for Allah's creation.



Understanding the World



We will be exploring how to look after different types of pets and what we need to consider before getting a pet. The children will be invited to talk about their own pets and how they care for them in order to keep them healthy and happy.

We will be taking a look at some [Amazing animals picture cards](#) and inviting the children to sort them into groups based on their features. We will provide time for them to discuss their ideas and explain their reasoning. The children will be introduced to the vocabulary 'reptile', 'mammal' and 'bird'. In provision, the children will be provided with three labelled hoops so they can work together to sort the picture cards into reptiles, mammals and birds.

We will be exploring the question 'Where do animals get their food?' The children will be provided with time to share their ideas and ask questions. They will be introduced to vocabulary including carnivore, herbivore, omnivore, plants and meat, and we will talk about how carnivores hunt and eat other animals for food in the animal world.

We will be looking at some [Animals around the world picture cards](#). The children will be invited to talk about the animals and identify any features they have in common. They will learn that some of the animals live in hot climates, and some live in cold climates. We will ask the children to explain where they think the animals might live and why. We will provide two labels, 'hot climates' and 'cold climates' for them to sort the animals.

The children will be shown some [Camouflage picture cards](#) and they will be invited to describe the animals that they can see in the images. They will be introduced to the word 'camouflage', and asked why they think some animals have camouflage and how it helps them survive in the wild.



We will introduce the children to the word 'habitat' and teach them what a habitat is and why it is important. We will explore different types of animal habitats and why they are suited to certain animals but not others. We will look closely at the different features associated with each habitat.



We will show the children [The Serengeti video](#). They will learn that The Serengeti is in Africa. Together, we will use a world map or globe to locate Africa and also to find the UK. We will take a look at the [Serengeti animals picture cards](#) and ask the children to name animals that live in the wild in the Serengeti in Africa. We will then ask the children to compare them with animals that live in the wild in the UK.

We will explain to the children that lots of animals are at risk of extinction, which means they will die out if we don't look after them and the places they live. We will look at creatures that have already become extinct and those that are at risk of extinction. We will discuss how it is essential to take care of the environment to protect and care for the animals. We will provide the children with litter pickers and rubbish sacks and take them on a litter hunt at Romanby Park with the Hambleton Wombles. This will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 8th May from 1pm – 2.30pm. A letter with more information will be sent home in the next few weeks. We will require parent helpers for this activity so please let me know if you are available to help. The children will learn that litter can be harmful to animals, so putting all wrappers and rubbish in the bin is essential.

Expressive Arts and Design

Following their teaching on 'camouflage', the children will be invited to choose an animal picture and create a camouflage background for them using mixed media.

Once the children have learnt about different animal habitats, they will be invited to use the powder paints to mix the colours needed to create their own landscape picture of a habitat.



Our music unit this half term is 'Big Bear Funk'. This unit is a transition unit that will support the children in learning the skills they will need for their music sessions in Year 1. The focus is to: 1. Listen and Appraise; 2. Musical Activities - learn about the interrelated dimensions of music through singing, improvising and playing classroom instruments; 3. Perform and Share.

We will share the book *Animal Homes* by Libby Walden and explore the different types of homes that animals live in. The children will learn that animals build homes to provide shelter to keep them safe from the elements and other animals. They will be provided with a selection of small world animals and various natural resources, such as pebbles, straw, branches, twigs, log slices and feathers and invited to select an animal for which to build a home. The children will be encouraged to communicate their ideas, share the resources and cooperate with each other.

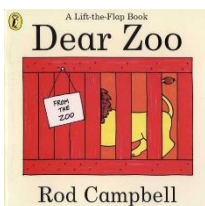
Using the *Amazing animals picture cards*, the children will be invited to make an animal mask. They will choose the animal they would like to make and select the resources they will use to make the different features. They will be taught the skill of curling and folding paper to make hair, fur or a long tongue. We will support the children to cut eye holes for their masks, and encourage them to adapt and add to their designs as they make them.

Literacy: Phonics and Early Reading

We will be sharing lots of stories over the course of the half term with the children that are linked to our theme. We have story time every day together. We will be continuing our learning of Phase 4 Phonics. We will continue to send home a letter every Friday which explains our learning and homework expectations. At home, please continue to support your child with daily reading and practising their letters and sounds and Harder to Read and Spell words.



Communication and Language



We will be reading the story *Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell. We will encourage the children to join in with the repeating pattern of the story. After reading the story, we will share ideas about which other animals would be unsuitable as a pet. As part of our **Literacy** we will text map the story in a 5-sentence format, learn to recite it using Makaton signs to help us, then begin to write it.

Mathematics

In Maths this half term we will be using a combination of Numberblocks and the following units from our whole school maths scheme 'White Rose Maths':

Summer Term: Block 1: – To 20 and beyond – Build numbers beyond 10; Continue patterns beyond 10; Verbal counting beyond 20; Verbal counting patterns beyond 20.

Summer Term: Block 2: How many now? - Add more; How many did I add?; Take away; How many did I take away?.

Summer Term: Block 3: Manipulate, compose and decompose – Select shapes for a purpose; Rotate shapes; Manipulate shapes; Explain shape arrangements; Compose shapes; Decompose shapes; Copy 2-D pictures; Find 2-D shapes within 3-D shapes.

Mini Project – Creep, Crawl and Wriggle



This theme will also be accompanied by the mini project 'Creep, Crawl and Wriggle'. We will introduce this topic to the children with a Minibeast Safari at Romanby Park where the children will search for minibeasts that wriggle, crawl, slide or fly. This will be part of our litter picking day. We will also be: investigating what is an insect and what isn't an insect; finding out fantastic facts about minibeasts and making our own 'mini' minibeast non-fiction books; learning all about Henri Matisse and collaging our own snail pictures. We will also be sharing lots of fiction and non-fiction texts about minibeasts.

Parents 'Stay and Play' session – Friday 24th May – 2.30pm – 3.25pm

We will continue to collect the children from the playground at 8:50am so that they can be in class for a prompt register and ready to start learning. The end of the day for the children will be 3:25pm unless other arrangements have been agreed with the class teacher. Please note, there is no supervision on the playground until 8:50am.

Please make sure your child has a water bottle in school every day along with their reading folders. All items of clothing should be clearly labelled with your child's name, especially jumpers.

Thank you for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to make contact with me if you have any concerns or questions.

Thank you

Miss Jenkins & the EYFS Team