

## Early Years Topic Letter –Spring 1

Our topic this half term is - Animals and our planet



Welcome back! I hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. I am looking forward to hearing all about it and sharing our favourite bits! This half term Miss Forrest will be working with me in Early Years each morning and some afternoons and Mrs Manners will be in Class 1 and with us some afternoons, this is part of a placement that Miss Forrest needs to do, Mrs Manners will return after February half term.

### **Gentle reminders:**

Drop off for all children is 8.45am, pick up is 3.15pm or 11.45am if your child goes home before lunch.

Please ensure your child has a change of clothing in school in case we need them.

Please email any end of day changes to Mrs Kennedy in the office – I cannot always guarantee messages on tapestry will be seen straight away.

Please always remember a waterproof coat, gloves and a hat, we go out in all weathers! Water bottles are also essential please.

PE and forest school will continue to be on a Monday and a Thursday, so please can your child come to school dressed in their PE kit on these days. If there are ever any changes to this, I will notify you on tapestry.

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. It is the way I communicate the most with you regarding any changes. 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 too! If anyone is having any problems accessing tapestry, please just let me know.

As ever if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me, I am always available at drop off or pick up times.

Dates for your diary:

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January – PTA meeting at school at 3.30pm - all parents welcome to attend

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January – Christingle service at Church 1.30pm

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February – PTA School disco – more information will be sent out about this from the PTA

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February – open morning for families – 9am

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February – break up for half term

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development



We 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 differences

Identify and moderate their own feelings socially and emotionally

Encouraging them to think about their own feelings and those of others by giving explicit examples of how others might feel in scenarios such as if someone will not play with us

Understanding what a random act of kindness is and how we can show kindness towards others

Learning about what hygiene is and what we need to do to keep ourselves clean and healthy

## Physical Development



This half term we will 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.

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 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, dough disco and using tweezers.

We will be developing our pencil control and Reception will be focussing on accurate letter formation. In Nursery, if we are ready, we will also be working hard to write our names.

In our P.E sessions the focus will be gymnastics.

## RE



This half term Reception will take part in RE sessions and our main focus this term is Christianity and why the word 'God' is so important to us?

We will be learning about the creation story.

## Communication and Language



We develop the children's listening and attention, understanding and speaking skills all 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:

Taking turns to talk during circle and group times

Taking each other's ideas on board and work together



Maths happens all day in Early Years, during the register, 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 such things as Numicon and on tens frames.

### Nursery Maths

This half term we will focus on:  
Counting up to 5 objects accurately  
Matching amounts of objects to numicon pieces  
Beginning to recognise numerals  
Continue to develop 2D shape knowledge  
Secure positional language

*Key vocabulary: How many? Numicon, number, match, same, triangle, square, circle, rectangle, 2D shape, flat shape.*

### Reception Maths

Maths is covered in all areas of the provision, but we also take part in a 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 5,6,7,8  
Addition and subtraction, number bonds to 5, combining two groups

*Key vocabulary: Compare, order, number, quantity, bigger, smaller, add, plus, combine, total, equals, altogether, subtract, take away, minus, number bonds.*

### Expressive, Art and Design



This half term the children will have the opportunity to:

Design homes for hibernating animals.  
Create collages.  
Select the tools and techniques they need to assemble materials that they are using e.g creating animal masks.  
Use different techniques for joining materials, such as how to use adhesive tape and different sorts of glue.  
Design posters to let people know about our Planet and what we can do to protect it.

*Key vocabulary: hibernation, animals, tools, collage, cut, stick, materials, join, attach, Planet, poster.*

### Understanding the World



This half term we will be:

Listening to stories and placing events in chronological order.  
Thinking about what we can do here to take care of animals in the Arctic?  
Comparing animals from our environment to those in the Arctic.  
Exploring a range of Arctic animals. Learn their names and label their body parts.  
Investigating why some environments are better suited to certain animals.  
Learning about nocturnal animals.  
Looking into recycling and how it can take care of our world. Look at what rubbish can do to our environment and animals.  
Learning about Chinese New Year.  
*Key vocabulary: animals, habitats, protect, recycle, nocturnal, diurnal, environment, compare.*