

All Creatures Great and Small



The Big Idea: The great David Attenborough said that to see animals in their own environment would 'unlock the answers to our world'. During this term, the environment on our doorstep will provide the answers to our many questions about living things and inspire us to be inquisitive, curious and full of wonder. We will watch both plant and animal life change and grow and glean new knowledge from both non-fiction texts and stories.



As language experts, we will...

Explore a whole host of animal habitats through quality stories and non-fiction texts. We will think about creatures in the wild and in captivity as well as understanding how living things have adapted to different climates and conditions. We will sequence life cycles, write captions, sort pictures and justify our choices. Quality texts will help us to understand how to improve simple sentence writing. This will enable us to contribute to a class book where our own zookeeper will have a menagerie and a story of his own to manage!

As mathematicians, we will...

continue securing our counting, recognising and understanding numbers up to 20 and perfecting the art of writing digits. We will take a brave step towards counting in twos and how different objects and quantities can be doubled or halved. We will learn how to tell the time on an analogue clock and understand the concept of o'clock and half past. Practical maths will come to the fore as we increase our positional vocabulary and weighing and measuring in many different contexts will see us mastering the early steps of capacity and mass.

In our Personal Social and Emotional Development

The adults we interact with will be teaching us about positive outdoor play. Our outdoor area and our 'home corner' will allow us to spend time in role-play scenarios of our choice. We will be encouraged to share and negotiate, choose and be responsible for the equipment we play with. We will work on many new skills as we start to look forward to our transition to Year 1.



In our Communication and Language work we will be...

developing our topic theme through speaking and listening, group discussion and shared text comprehension. We will improve the art of asking relevant questions about different animals and sharing our own knowledge and confidence in simple presentations. Before half term, we will be learning more about sharing and solving problems in our friendships. Through role play and rehearsal we will think about thoughtfulness and kindness.

In our Physical Development lessons we will be...

experiencing outdoor games that develop our skills of balance and co-ordination. We will be hopping, skipping, riding balance bikes and talking about our growing bodily strength. Team games will enable us to rehearse ball skills and co-operation, and there will be plenty of aerobic exercise that will improve our speed, core strength and physical development.

As we further our understanding of the world, we will be...

browsing non-fiction texts and watching web-based film to understand what makes animals suited to their environments. There will be plenty of opportunities to investigate life cycles and look for evidence of our learning outside. Hatching our own chicks in the incubator will open up the process of animal growth and all that we see will be reinforced with quality texts and on-line information.

In the Expressive Art and Design area of the curriculum, we will be...

inspired by the world of animals to create sound and pictures. Observational drawing will turn to full scale painting as we look at the patterns and habitats of animals and create works of art. Our musical talents will come to the fore as we create instruments and use them to perform. Once our learning is underway, we will work together as budding artists to design a mini-beast mansion and use our construction skills to bring it to life. Before half term, our focus will turn to colour mixing. We will be creating potions to observe what happens when primary colours combine.