

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 be consolidating our understanding of number bonds to 5 and 10, in addition to solving practical mathematical problems involving addition and subtraction. We will be understanding how we can use a number line to help us solve these problems and we will begin to record our answers as a number sentence. We will also be learning about odd and even numbers.

In our Personal Social and Emotional Development

The adults we interact with will be teaching us about positive outdoor play. Our outdoor area and drama activities enable 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 learn 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 high-quality documentary footage 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. Reflecting on animals hatching from eggs will open up the process of animal growth and all that we see will be reinforced with quality texts.

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. We will be exploring a variety of media including clay, watercolours and collage before applying our new skills imaginatively to our own projects. We will explore using drama and role play to retell familiar stories and continue to experiment and explore arts and crafts in our own independent play.