

Born to be Wild



The Big Idea

'Understanding of the natural world is a source of not only great curiosity, but great fulfilment... it's our responsibility to do everything within our power to create a planet that provides a home not just for us, but for all life on Earth' – Sir David Attenborough

This half term Year 2 set about understanding the living beings that share our planet. We discover the lifecycles of animals and plants and how we can play our part in the protection of habitats and species.

As mathematicians we will

We will continue our learning on multiplication and division. We will use our knowledge of multiplication and division facts to help us solve word problems, using methods such as arrays, grouping and sharing. We will also begin our new topic on fractions, where we will explore different fractions of amounts (for example, finding $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ of a number) and apply this to more challenging word problems. Throughout the half term, we will continue to develop our arithmetic skills, solving calculations efficiently and choosing the most appropriate strategies.

As scientists we will

Begin a unit of work on plants, which will also underpin our art and geography topics. We will be investigating what a seed needs to germinate and looking at the lifecycles of different plants found on our school site. This includes the very beginnings of a plant's life, all the way through to how they reproduce. By the end of the unit, children will be able to name and explain the 4 main parts of a plant, along with their functions. Working scientifically, we will carry out investigations linked to plant growth and discover how to care for the plants in our environment. As always in science, we will be focussing on key skills such as predicting what will happen, recalling prior knowledge of plants, observing investigations over different periods of time, then reaching conclusions based on the findings we collect.

As geographers we will

We will be mapping different animal habitats in our locality, we will compare and contrast different areas around the world and think about how cold and hot climates effect the population and animals that choose to live there. We will be looking at physical features, extending our geographical vocabulary of different landscapes and locations and see how humans have altered different environments to make them more habitable. Through this, we aim to understand a little more about the positive and negative impact humans have had on their worlds.

As language experts we will

We will be developing our spelling and grammar skills, focusing on how suffixes change the meaning of root words and how we can use vocabulary effectively in our writing. We will continue to use the correct tense and experiment with different sentence types and conjunctions to support writing for a range of purposes. We will begin the half term by exploring *Where the Wild Things Are*, where we will write a character description and a retelling of the story. We will then move on to another narrative, *The Tear Thief* by Carol Ann Duffy, developing our use of descriptive language to bring characters and settings to life within a magical story structure. Towards the end of the half term, we will explore explanation texts using *A Bear's Guide to Beekeeping* by Pip Carnell, which will support us in writing our own 'how-to' guide. Reading, as always, will be at the heart of our English curriculum. Alongside our class texts, we will continue to develop our comprehension skills during guided reading sessions.

Across the curriculum

As athletes we will be learning how to play tactically when it comes to striking and fielding games in sessions with Mr Clarke.

As musicians we will be joining together as a school to enjoy different genres of music. We will develop confidence to sing and perform a range of different songs and learn about great composers and contemporary songwriters.

As expressive artists we will be creating our own pictures based on the work of Georgia O'Keefe. We will be using viewfinders to create skill life drawings before enlarging these to master some oil pastel pictures. We will be developing our modelling skills, turning our sketches and ideas into decorative clay sculptures.

As computer specialists we will be using and developing our internet searching skills to find information about animals in our school environment. By working on building fact files using Microsoft Word, we will develop our word processing skills and add pictures to finish a presentation document.

As theologians and thinkers we will be looking at Christianity, Judaism and non-religious views. We will be thinking about what is means to *belong* and how and why some stories are important in different religions.

Citizenship, the 5 C's and British Values

We will be looking at how we keep ourselves and others safe, starting with the home and school, before thinking about life in the wider community, travelling along roads and playing near open water. As a school, we will be exploring the protected characteristics and understanding how important and precious respect and individual rights are.

Ambition and possibilities

Will animals in our world be around forever? What threatens different species and have all animal species on planet Earth already been discovered? If we have explored so little of our oceans, what creatures are yet to be found...?

Year 2 Learning Letter

Summer 1

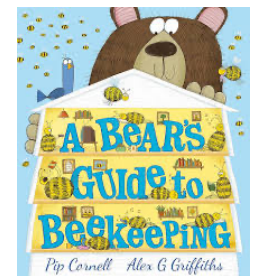
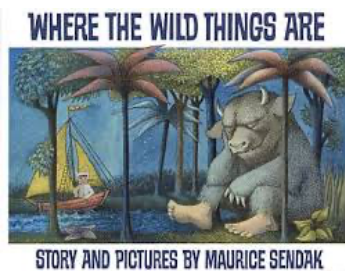
Last Half Term

Welcome back after your Easter break! I hope you are well rested after what was a very fun-filled and busy half term. We had a great time designing, making, testing and evaluating our moving vehicles. The children showed fantastic care and attention to detail and I know they were just as proud of their creations as I was. It was wonderful to see such a strong love of learning and enthusiasm for STEM.

We now head into our third and final term! We will begin with our new topic, 'Born to be Wild', where we will take our learning outdoors to help us understand the living things we share our planet with. Please refer to the **Creative Curriculum Map** for more information about our learning this half term.



Focus books for this half term



Homework, Reading and PE:



Each week, your child will be listened to by myself or Mr Clarke, alongside our three guided reading sessions focused on developing fluency and comprehension. Homework will be set on Fridays and due in on Wednesdays, including a spelling task linked to our current learning and a maths activity. PE takes place on Mondays; please ensure PE kits remain in school until half term and are clearly named.

As the children enter the third and final term of year 2, we encourage them to join the morning line independently to help build their confidence and independence. I know many of you are already doing this — it's wonderful to see, so please keep it up!

