

Learning at Home

We cannot stress enough the importance of spending time with your children enjoying activities and time in the outdoors. Please continue to support your child with their reading and write your comments in their reading record book. We would also like to provide you with learning ideas that you can complete as a family. The below activities are meant to be fun and enjoyable for everyone. If your child is not engaging then leave it for a while and try again another day. The activities can be completed at anytime over the half term and brought into school for the children to celebrate with their friends.

Thank you.

Visit a local farm or sanctuary

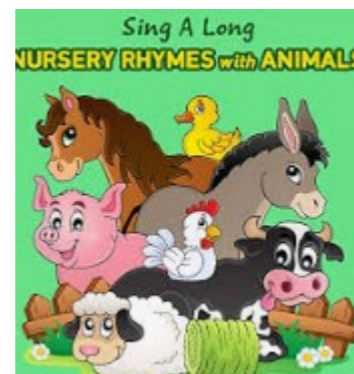
Encourage children to interact safely with animals from different environments.

Take photos of your child and their pets to share with others. Talk about the habits of different animals, what they eat and similarities and differences between us and them.



Sing animal related songs.

Sing songs about different animals. Encourage children to use expression when singing songs. Can they make up their own animal sounds and perform for friends and family, acting like different animals?



Spectacular Species



Reception Spring 1

Learning in Early Years

This half term, we will be describing a variety of animals and discussing their features and habitats. We will also have a big focus on the life cycle of the caterpillar. We will be caring for our own caterpillars in class. The children will have the opportunity to meet some of the teacher's pets this half-term. We will also hold virtual 'Show and Tell' sessions, where children can introduce their own pets to their friends!

Lily and Rosie the Guinea pigs will be visiting and the children will spend time talking about their pets at home. It would be really helpful if parents could send in photographs of chil-

Learning in Literacy Speaking and Listening

Children will develop their language by talking about and describing the different animals we have observed this term, from pets at home to animals whose habitats are further afield. We will introduce terms we use to categorise animals e.g. mammal, reptiles and amphibians.

Reading

We will continue with our daily guided reading sessions. We also will read the Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle and Our Very Own Dog by Amanda McCardie, as well as lots of non-fiction books and fact files about animals.

Writing

Children will continue to develop spelling and segmenting of words, using diagraphs, such as ay, igh, ou, air, ure. Children will be encouraged to write short sentences using the sounds they know.

We will be writing descriptions of animals, menus, posters, guidebooks, diary entries and captions for photographs.

Understanding of the World

We will look closely at the origins of Mothering Sunday. We will use our nature garden to look for the first signs of Spring and to hunt for minibeasts. We will also look at the life cycle of a caterpillar and observe their transformation into butterflies.

Expressive Art and Design

- We will be developing our creative skills by using recyclable materials to paint with and create junk art.
- We will create masks using a range of materials and continue to develop our scissor work.
- We will explore aspects of pitch and rhythm when singing animal songs.



Learning outdoors

We will be using the outdoor learning environment to investigate the animal and critter life in our school. We will observe bugs in the Nature Garden, construct our own bug hotel and take turns to feed the fish and care for the rabbits in the quadrant alongside our classrooms. The children will also be tasked with transforming our Nature Garden. After much weeding and planting of new flowers and vegetation, we hope to get it looking splendid for the summer!

Learning in Maths

Number

We will consolidate our counting to 20 this term and then focus heavily on basic addition and subtraction. Children will count the amount of objects and pictures in two groups to find totals and solve practical problems involving taking items away.

Shape, Space and Measure

We will use the knowledge we have acquired about 2D and 3D shapes to create repeating patterns, and develop the language related time, ordering and measuring short periods of time in simple ways.

Role play and small word

We will be transforming our role play areas to resemble veterinary practices and using our imaginations to enact the job of a vet, discussing ways of caring for animals. In small world areas, we will allow children to explore and play with farmyard and jungle animals, promoting talk about their habitats and character features.

What in the world is this?



Points to remember

Please encourage children to engage in games and activities with others in which they practise turn taking and sharing,

If you have any pets, please take photographs and share them with us as these can be used to promote discussion and writing opportunities.

Read stories to your child every day. Look at the pictures and talk about them, to help develop language skills.