

Heddon St Andrew's CofE
Primary School

Animals



Spring 2 2021

Nursery - Miss Kerridge, and Miss Ross
Reception - Mrs Cubbage, Mrs Haddock,
Mrs McGurk

After half term our topic is 'Animals' where we will be learning about different Animals from around the world. The aim of this leaflet is to give you an overview of the skills to be covered during the study of this topic. Due to the child focussed curriculum in the Foundation Stage, we are unable to specify exactly what we will be doing as it can change regularly depending on the interests and abilities of the children.

During the topic the children will learn about animals living in different habitats as well as learning about the differences between wild animals and pets.

The seven areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage will continue to be explored and children will have lots of opportunities to initiate their own learning. Within these areas the children will be learning skills and working towards specific goals.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children will think about feelings through different animals in stories; they will explore their own feelings and the feelings of others, and think about how to regulate their behaviour accordingly. They will also learn how to behave near animals and how to care for pets. Through circle games the children will learn to take turns, to understand the need for agreed codes of behaviour as well as learning to negotiate and solve problems.

Communication and Language

Children will listen to and share a wide range of quality fiction and non-fiction books alongside specific core stories selected for opportunities to allow the children to extend their vocabulary. The children will be able to listen to ideas expressed by others in conversation and respond to what they hear with relevant comments and questions.

Physical Development

Activities such as playing with malleable materials and construction toys will give children experience of handling different tools and materials safely and with increasing control. Through pretending to be animals in different places and situations, children will have the opportunity to move with co-ordination, confidence and imagination as well as develop their awareness of safety and space. Using a range of small and large equipment the children will build animals homes. There will be an emphasis this term for the children in Reception to ensure that all letters are formed correctly.



Mathematical Development

The theme of animals provides a meaningful context for mathematical activities. Children are given the opportunity to count a wide variety of animals, legs and markings and develop language for addition and subtraction. The children will be able to create their own mathematical problems based on the topic. There are opportunities for children to explore size and sorting as they compare animals. A number of counting rhymes with actions and games that use simple equipment are suggested to reinforce the theme. The children will be looking at different animal patterns as well as position.



Literacy

During this topic there will be opportunities for children to write and mark-make through different genres; giving children the experiences of creating posters, leaflets, information texts and letters. In Nursery, the children are encouraged to explain the marks that they are making and add interesting detail. The children in Reception will continue to write in full sentences and aim to extend their writing to add more detail and ambitious vocabulary.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

During this topic there will be opportunities for children to make observations, ask questions and compare. They can observe a range of animal markings, colours and investigate camouflage. By looking at pictures of wild animals they will learn about new animals and understand the features that helps them to be suited to their particular habitats. Children will be aware that information comes from non-fiction texts as well as other sources, such as the Internet. Throughout the topic, children will develop their understanding of living things.



Expressive Arts and Design

During this topic, children will experience working with a variety of materials as they make animal collages, print with sponges, weave and finger paint. They will be able to develop their skills of painting and colour mixing as they paint animal patterns and other colourful creatures. Children will learn a number of action songs that involve animals. Throughout all the activities children are encouraged to talk about what they see and feel as they communicate their ideas in painting, music, collage work and role-play.

