

Acorn Class Newsletter

Well done Acorn Class!

What a busy term it has been and I think you'll agree the children were all fantastic in their first Nativity Play. The confidence to get on stage in front of an audience was incredible. Also going on their first school trip. The children were so sensible and a credit to Newington CEP school. I was very proud of them all.

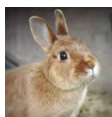
Curriculum
information



Please do add things to your child's portfolio as the children really enjoy sharing this with the staff and their friends in school.



Our topic in term 3 is 'Amazing animals'



In **Understanding of the World**, the children will begin to explore the similarities and differences between various animals; sorting them into simple categories according to different features. The children will also learn about their habitats and how animals need to be cared for. They will begin to describe the life cycle of familiar animals and learn about the past when exploring dinosaurs. We will also learn lots of animal songs in **Expressive Art and Design** and explore the artist Henri Rousseau – Tiger in a Tropical Storm 'Surprised'. In **Literacy**, the children will continue to develop their Phonic knowledge by moving on to Phase 3 and learning new digraphs and then using the sounds they know in both reading and writing. We encourage all children to 'have a go' at writing and ascribe meaning to their marks. We celebrate all attempts and levels of writing at this stage. The children will have the opportunity to write about their pets and simple animal facts. Handwriting will also become a focus this term.

In **maths** this term, we will be continuing to master a secure understanding of numbers to 6 and beyond. We will be counting to find a total, one more and one less and using a five and ten frame to represent numbers in different ways and to complete simple addition and subtraction.

Key Questions this term:

What am I called?

Which animal family do I belong to?

Which country do I originate from?

Where do I live?

What is my habitat?

Why do I have fur, feathers or scales?

What is my young called?

How do we care for animals?



Good links to explore our theme

Farm

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b0798kz4/down-on-the-farm>

Andy's Adventures

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/search?q=cbeebies+Andy%27s+animal-adventures&page=2>

Maybe head to the library too!

Reading

In Reception, we will continue to use phonetically decodable reading books. This means the books are linked to your child's developing phonic knowledge based on our assessments. The children should be able to use the sounds that they know to decode simple words independently. We will continue to send home a 'reading' book each week and also a 'share' book that you can read to your child to help develop their love of reading, which is equally important. Please do not worry if your child comes home with a book they have already had; practising and rehearsing a book until they are secure in blending the words independently and fluently is important. We will have practised the book in school first so your child should be familiar with it. Please ensure the children bring in their reading and yellow contact book **every day** as this term we will be doing extra reading interventions for some children.

Please remember to sign your child's book when you have read with them as we will continue to monitor '3 reads' at home.



Clothing

Please ensure all clothing is labelled with your child's name; including hats and scarves.

P.E is on Tuesday

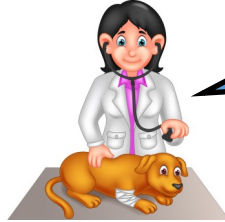
Next term we will begin P.E. in the hall

Please could you ensure your child comes to school in appropriate P.E kit on these days. This should include white t-shirt, dark shorts, leggings or jogging bottoms.

Please remove earrings on these days.

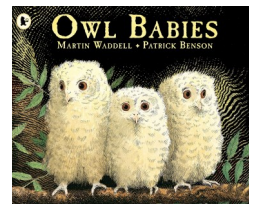
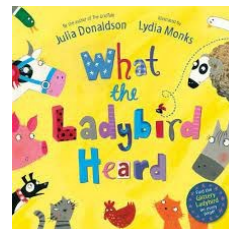
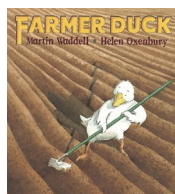
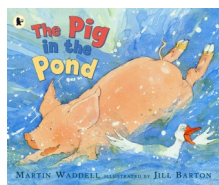
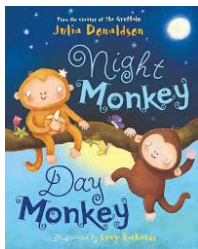
Reception Knowledge Organiser

This term our theme will be 'Amazing animals' We have selected this theme because Dinosaurs and Mini-beasts seem to be particular favourites but we also wanted to take this opportunity to give the children a space to use their developing communication and language to talk about familiar animals in their home. We would love to hear about the pets that the children have at home so please do post pictures on DOJO.



Does anybody have any links/contacts with a vet , pet shop, Farmer etc? Please do get in touch!

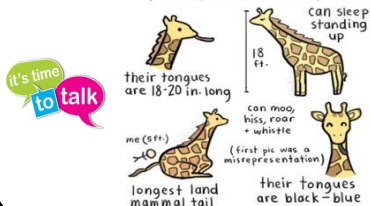
In the next few weeks, we are going to be learning about different species of animals; their habitats and how they are cared for. We are looking forward to reading new stories, such as:



Fun fact:

fun facts about giraffes

(if you say it aloud, it kinda rhymes)



Key Vocabulary this term

Communication and Language is a priority area in Early Years and we encourage you to take every opportunity to engage in dialogue with your child.

Our Key topic words are:

Pet

Vet

Farm/Safari/Aquatic

Farm animal names

Safari animal names

Sea creatures names

Dinosaur names

Habitat

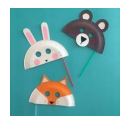
Carnivore/Herbivore

Ideas for home learning this term:

- Reading—lots of reading and sharing books! Share an information book about 'animals' with a member of your family.
- Visit a pet shop or farm—Watch 'Down on the farm' on Cbeebies

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b0798kz4/down-on-the-farm>

- Make an animal from Playdough
- Go on a minibeast hunt around your garden
- Make an animal home/cage from boxes or cartons around the house.
- Paint an animal picture or make an animal mask!
- What would be your dream pet? Draw a picture and write a sentence. Challenge: Can you use finger spaces between your words?



Please post any extra home learning on DOJO so we can share with your friends and reward with a special sticker.