

Curriculum Information

Reception Spring 2023



Hello everyone, I hope you all had a wonderful and well rested Christmas break - Happy New Year! With a new year comes lots of new learning and I can't wait to get stuck in and start a new adventure with Reception. Our topic this half term is "Amazing Animals" where we will be taking a geographical approach through observing different animals that can be found around the world. We will cover "Understanding the world" through exploring animals including their features, habitats and diets. This topic has already been a hit with the children as we have some keen animal lovers. Our role play area has transformed into a "Vets" allowing the children the opportunity to role play caring for animals. This half term we will also be re-introducing "Mystery reader with a pet" This is where you can come along to school at 2:45 on a day suitable to you and read a book of your choosing to the children.... With a pet! Last year we had dogs, cats, rabbits, stick insects, a tortoise and even a pony so any pet will do! The part of the mystery is that the children don't know who is coming, or when so please keep it a secret. The sign up sheet will be on the door or email a preferred date to myself. If you don't have a pet don't worry next half term we will continue "Mystery reader" without pets.

Maths

This half term we will be concentrating on numbers to 20 including counting forwards and backwards, finding missing numbers, representing in different ways before we take a closer look at more than and less than and addition/subtraction.

Within the home setting maths will occur naturally however there are a few things you can do to support your child with their school focus for this half term.

- Counting at every opportunity including backwards!
- Finding missing numbers from a pattern
- Making amounts that are less/more
- Representing numbers
- Download the White Rose App and have a go at some games!

English

To link with our topic "Amazing Animals" We will be focusing on 3 key texts.

Book 1: The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson

Book 2: Were going on a bear hunt by Michael Rosen

Book 3: The Tiger who came to tea by Judith Kerr

Throughout these texts we will be focusing on the structure of a story, looking closely at the beginning, middle and end. We will identify key characters, events and vocabulary whilst encouraging retelling using our own words. We will also be adapting stories and writing our own versions. This half term the children will be exposed to our story retelling structure used at Harden which is:

Once upon a time... One day... Unfortunately... Luckily... So...

Phonics

We will continue to work alongside our Little Wandle scheme of work. The children have already shown huge progress with their phonics and are recognising all GPCS taught. We are now moving on to Phase 3 sounds and flashcards will be coming home as the new sound is taught. Please go through the flashcards as much as possible. This half term we are still concentrating on blending when reading - This is where you child says each sound individually in a word (c-a-t) before saying the word (cat) as a whole. I will continue to add words to marvellous me to practice reading and spelling at home. If you need any support please come and see me.

Books to match your child's phonic development will continue to come home. Books will be changed Mondays and all children will read x3 times per week in school following the little wandle scheme.

Technology

To link into our topic "Amazing Animals" The children will be exploring maps looking at directions and environments where animals are found in the world. To link with this we will be exploring "google maps" on the iPads and encouraging the use of navigational language.

The children will also use the iPads to play mathematical games on the white rose apps and to create images using the painting tool to link with their topic.

Topic

To begin our topic "Amazing Animals" the children will learn about animals that are found in cold places such as the Arctic and Antarctica. We will explore the animals habitats and why their bodies make it possible to live there thinking about "blubber and fur" We then move onto animals found in other environments such as rainforests, deserts and woodlands. Also looking at why animals can't be kept as pets! Your children will be exposed to the terminology "Nocturnal, diurnal and hibernation" looking closely at what they mean. We will observe the work of David Attenborough and how he has inspired us to look after animals and our planet before learning about life cycles of animals and how they differ between species.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children always have access to the design and craft area but these will be complemented with different enhancements and focused activities. We will be making links to Art and Design through our topic through: creating polar bear images using chalks and watercolours, exploring collage through creating owls, sculpting animals of our choice through the use of clay, using natural materials in the forest area to create bug hotels. We will also look closely at the Artist Henri Rousseau's Tiger in a storm painting and have a go at creating our own.

Physical Development

Gross Motor: We will be exploring our bodies through dance thinking about how we can tell stories through dance and move to music in different ways. P.E is on a **Wednesday** and **Thursday**. Please send your child in their P.E kit.

Fine Motor: Playdough, threading and weaving, building using small materials, name writing.

R.E

Big Question: Which places are special and why?

We will also be incorporating celebrations such as “Valentines day” and “Chinese new year” into our learning.

PSHE

At Harden Primary School we follow the “My Happy Mind” programme which concentrates on children’s mental health and wellbeing. In Reception the children are taught a specific topic through stories and puppets. This half term we look at “Characteristics of being a friend” The children will look closely at this topic alongside their book - Charlies Rainbow.

Home Learning

Reading - Your child will be sent home with x2 reading books weekly (changed Monday’s) Your child's little wandle book matches their phonic development. This book is read with your child x3 times per week in school. The other book contributes to this and should also be read at home. When reading please allow your child to segment and blend where they need to. Only if they are really stuck should you help with a word but model segmenting and blending yourself. Your child should be reading their book 95% accurate before it is changed.

Words - As sounds are taught, flashcards will be sent home to practice. We recommend you do some sort of reading or phonics work daily to consolidate work completed at school but we understand that this is not always possible. I will continue to add words to Marvellous me that your child should be able to spell and read. This can be done at home and brought into school to celebrate—the children love showing their friends their work.

Marvellous me - Here you will find observations of things your child has done at school. This might be a wow piece of writing or maths or their amazing creating in the construction area. We aim for a variety of observations per half term. Please expect about x2 per week, per child. Please check this app regularly as it’s a key contact point from your child’s class teacher.