

# Reception Newsletter



## Spring Term 1 2026



Our topic this half term is:

### Amazing Animals!

We hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed their holiday. In this topic we will be learning all about different animals. The children will also observe the changes to the weather in winter. Below is an outline of what the children will be learning about:

<u>Communication and Language</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Key text - Surprising Sharks, The Emperor's Egg plus others.</li><li>• Reading - the difference between fiction and non-fiction texts.</li><li>• Handwriting - letter formation.</li><li>• Punctuation - capital letters, finger spaces and full-stops.</li><li>• Vocabulary - learning new words for animals, animals parts and habitats.</li></ul>	<u>Maths</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Subitising - saying how many there are without counting i.e. on a dice.</li><li>• Counting - verbal counting to 20; counting objects accurately; using fingers to represent quantities to 10; order numerals.</li><li>• Composition - what are numbers 5 and 6 made of ie 2 and 3 makes 5.</li><li>• Patterns - animal patterns</li><li>• Shape - 3D shape</li></ul>	<u>Science</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Science Day experiment</li><li>• Changes in weather and seasons, focussing on Winter</li><li>• Learning about different types of animals.</li><li>• Exploring our 5 senses.</li></ul>
<u>Art and DT</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collage of an animal</li><li>• Choosing appropriate colours to represent animals</li><li>• Using scissors, paintbrushes and other tools</li><li>• Artist inspiration - Andy Warhol</li></ul>	<u>History</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understanding and using everyday language for time such as yesterday, today, tomorrow and soon.</li></ul>	<u>Geography</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Making simple maps out of objects to represent the classroom and playground.</li><li>• Understanding and using words such as 'next to, around, through, over, under'.</li></ul>
<u>PSED</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How we look after and care for animals.</li><li>• Keep trying when something is difficult</li><li>• Work well with others</li><li>• Be positive and work hard to achieve goals.</li></ul>	<u>Physical Development</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Washing our hands after touching animals</li><li>• Holding pencils and other tools correctly.</li><li>• Moving in different ways and into space.</li></ul>	<u>Understanding the World</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Observing animals and changes in nature.</li><li>• Using an ipad to take a photograph.</li><li>• Use simple programmes such as Busythings and 2simple paint.</li></ul>

## Dates

- **Science Day is on Friday 9th January.** Parents/family members are invited into class from 8:50 to 9:40am. If your job/hobby is science related, please let your class teacher know if you would like to talk about it with your child's class. Children are welcome to wear a science themed top/t-shirt with their uniform. If your child does anything science-related at home, please send in a picture. **Please also complete the science family quiz with your child and return to school before Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January.**
- **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February** Lunar Chinese New Year celebration. 8:50 - 9:45. More details to follow.
- Parents Consultations are on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February** 2:00 pm onwards and **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February** 4:00 onwards. **School closes at 1.45pm on Wednesday 11th February.**

Many thanks,  
The Reception Team