



## Spring 2026 1<sup>st</sup> Half Term – Nursery

We hope you all had an enjoyable and restful holiday. It is a pleasure to see the children excited to be back, ready to explore, learn and spend time with their friends.

This half term our topic is “Animals.” We start with Farm Animals, focussing on the names, sounds and patterns of the animals. We then move onto Hibernating Animals, and look at what it means to hibernate. Next is Snowy Animals, with lots of fun using ice and pretend snow in our sensory trays! We continue with Sea Animals, learning lots of tricky words as well as lots of water play. We finish with Jungle Animals. Each week we will have a focus story and key vocabulary.

### Personal, Social & Emotional Development

The children will continue to build and develop relationships with peers and adults. They will be encouraged to play cooperatively alongside their peers and friends to create games and ideas. We will be focussing especially on helping each other and being kind.

### Communication & Language

This term we will introduce key words each week based around our topic. We will be taking turns to talk around the circle, with an emphasis on the importance of listening to each other, and recalling, and answering questions in Story Time. We will learn how to create our own stories using Tales Toolkit.

### Physical Development

During outdoor play, the children will develop their gross-motor skills as they navigate objects and steer vehicles. We will also be working on balancing and jumping from obstacles too. The children will be using their fine-motor skills to manipulate a wide variety of materials in messy play and will continue to work on their hand dominance during mark-making.

### Literacy

We are very excited to be starting Letterland this term. Each week the children will learn a new sound and their corresponding Letterland character. We will be starting with the sound ‘a’ and sharing stories, songs and games each day. We will be focusing on objects in the environment and their initial sounds.

### Maths

We will be expanding our number skills and really focussing on counting, recognising and matching numerals and quantities within 3. We will also be exploring shapes, using numicon and will be enjoying shape hunts around our environment.

### Understanding the World

Through our topic stories we will look at a wide variety of animals and their habitats. We will talk about how these animals look, sound and adapt to their environments. How does a polar bear keep warm? How can a fish swim?

### Expressive Arts

Using our toy animals and lots of sensory materials, we will explore muddy farms, a woodland, the icy artic, and the deep sea! We will make feathery chicks and woolly lambs, hedgehogs made of dough and sticks, and try painting pictures of our favourite jungle animals.

### Reminders for this half term

- ★ Please ensure your child has all winter kit in school including wellington boots and waterproof winter coats – all clearly labelled with their name please!
- ★ The children should be bringing a clearly named school water bottle to school with them every day.
- ★ All children must have a spare set of clothes in school. If these are sent home, please replenish them the following day.
- ★ A reminder for children who stay for lunch that our policy is strictly ‘no chocolate and no nuts’ in packed lunches.

Mrs Fraser and Mrs Harvey ☺