

Reception Newsletter



Aldwyn Primary School - Every Child a Success

Spring Term 2

Monday 23rd February 2026
to
Friday 27th March 2026

Theme – Greedy Animals

It is lovely to be back after the half term break. We hope you all had a restful holiday and we look forward to a busy half term of learning. The topic learning is listed below and we have exciting events to celebrate: World Book Day, Mother's Day, Eid ul Fitr and Easter.



What will we read this half term?

This half term our theme is 'Greedy Animals'. We will be reading the above texts and exploring in more detail Handa's Surprise and Giraffe's Can't Dance. Through these texts the children will experience a range of activities including: fruit tasting, sharing which is their favourite fruit, describing how the fruit feel, discussing healthy and unhealthy food, dental hygiene, retelling and acting out the stories, comparing where we live to living in different countries and learning new dances.

Please note that all the EYFS curriculum map can be found on the school website. This contains the coverage and overview of learning for the year.

What will we learn this half term?

Communication and Language

This half term the children will:

Understand why listening is important.

Maintain attention in different contexts.

Use talk to help work out problems and organise thinking and activities explain how things work and why they might happen.

Ask questions to find out more and check understanding.

Articulate their ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences.

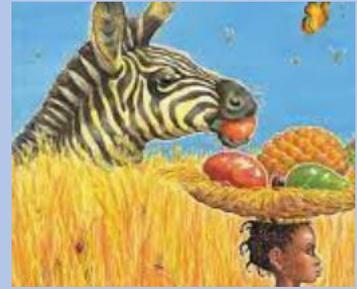
Listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary.

Begin to connect one idea or action to another using a range of connectives.

Describe events in some detail.

Handa's Surprise –

- We will create small world areas to encourage the children to re-enact the story using small world characters. They will use story sequencing cards to order then retell the story to each other.
- We will encourage children to talk about their favourite animals and fruit from the story using full sentences to explain their selection and asking each other questions about their choices.
- The children will play games to describe the animals and fruit using a wide variety of adjectives.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children will be supported to:

Make choices and communicate what they need.

Begin to show persistence when faced with challenges.

Keep play going by co-operating, listening, speaking, and explaining.

Reflect on the work of others and self-evaluate their own work.

Handa's Surprise

- We will talk about surprises. Why was Handa surprised in this story? Why did she want to give Akeyo a surprise? Have the children ever received surprise gifts?
- Children will talk about healthy and unhealthy food choices.
- We will discuss Handa's friends and family using the illustrations in the book to discuss things they do.

Giraffes Can't Dance

We will use these questions to support our learning from the story:

- How do you think Gerald was feeling when the animals laughed at him?
- Why was he feeling sad?
- How should the animals have behaved?
- When you feel sad who helps you to feel better?
- Celebrating the children's unique special skills.



Physical Development

The children will talk about the different factors that support their overall health and wellbeing: regular physical activity, healthy eating, toothbrushing, sensible amounts of 'screen time', having a good sleep routine, being a safe pedestrian.

We will continue to support the children to use good letter formation with the correct pencil grip. We will be looking for continued progress in scissor and cutting skills.

The PE sessions will focus on - Jumping.

- Exploring / developing jumping.
- Apply jumping into a game.
- Jumping for distance
- Exploring jumping high and hopping.

Handa's Surprise and Giraffes Can't Dance

- The children will explore balancing baskets or quoits on their heads and walking along chalked routes or planks. Different surfaces, slopes will be added for a challenge.
- The children will move in different ways like the animals. They could flap like parrots, swing like monkeys or stamp like elephants.
- The animals go to the jungle dance the children will practise different types of dance – Rock and Roll, Tango, Cha Cha and we will even try the Scottish Reel.



English

The children will continue to have their Read Write Inc. phonics sessions each morning. Blending the sounds for reading words and sentences will remain a focus and we know that parents are continuing this work at home so thank you. The children love to become the teacher and will take on the role with pride.

Please use the link below if you need any further information about Read Write Inc phonics.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>

The English tasks will include:

To know the difference between different types of texts – fiction and non-fiction

Writing lists of different fruit

Verbal and written descriptions of fruit

Sequencing the story using story cards

Naming the animals from the story and labelling parts of an animal

Researching animals facts and writing sentences

Making their own fact books of animals

Describing animals using extended labels for example – long neck, thin legs



Maths

This half term we will be continuing to explore numbers to 10. The focus will be on numbers 9 & 10. It will include representing 9 and 10, sorting 9 and 10 in different ways, ordering numbers to 10, composition of 9, counting backwards from 10, comparing numbers within 10. 3D shapes and real-life objects, making 3D prints and pattern work.

This work follows the White Rose Scheme of work for spring. The maths work will be explored through the classroom theme, through the inside and outdoor classroom and by using real life resources and practical activities.

Understanding the World

The children will explore and recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries. They will compare where they live to where the characters live from the stories. We will discuss where different fruit come from.

We will explore healthy food choices and discuss the benefits of keeping our bodies healthy.

Healthy food choices - sorting healthy and unhealthy food.

The importance of fruit and vegetables and designing a healthy meal

Importance of exercise and rest on the body.

Dental hygiene and teeth.

Events and Festivals :

Spring - Looking for seasonal changes in the local environment.

World Book Day

Mother's Day

Eid ul Fitr

Easter



Expressive Arts and Design

We will look at the artist Paul Cezanne and use this to inspire our own fruit bowl still life paintings and observational drawings. What colours / textures will you need to show?

Animal art – painting, collage, fruit and vegetable prints, animal prints.



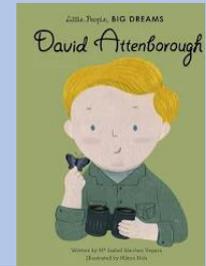
We will listen to music from around the world and learn dances linked to Giraffe's Can't Dance. The children will have opportunities to express their feelings through dance and celebrate different skills.



Spring term is the perfect opportunity to be creative and we will use various craft techniques for making Easter and Mother's Day cards.

Little People Big Dreams

This half term our Little People Big Dreams book is David Attenborough. This book links with our English and Understanding of the World work where we will be learning about animals from different countries.



General Information

During this half term we will also be talking about 'people who help us' so if you have job or hobby that you think the children will be interested in learning about we would love to invite you into school to speak to the classes. Please see your class teacher if you think you are able to help.

Water Bottles – Please can the children bring their water bottles to school each day. It is important they have the opportunity to drink water throughout the day,

Thank you for all your support with your child's phonics learning at home. We can see the progress the children are making daily and your help at home really makes a difference.

We are looking forward to another exciting half term. Please speak to a member of the team if there is anything further we can support you with, as always we are here to help.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards
The Reception Team