

## 2<sup>nd</sup> half Spring term 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Spring term. It's always a favourite with the staff - as spring appears so do the opportunities for us to give the children lots of hands-on learning with planting, growing and looking after living things. We are all looking forward to many exciting things that we are planning at the pre-school this springtime

### Topics to ignite interests!

#### 'A journey through the animal kingdom!'

At the pre-school we know how important it is to build learning opportunities around the children's own interests. This is a topic that all the children show interest and excitement in.



As we travel through the animal kingdom, the children will be taking an expedition to the poles, diving under the sea, exploring the jungle and finishing with a safari through Africa.

At each stage of their journey, the children will be learning about different animals, their habitats, life cycles, what diets they have, and lots of interesting facts. As well as looking at different animals from around the world the children will be learning about the countries where they live, the cultures and will have a taste of food from around the world.

To support this topic we are planning to have animals visit the pre-school.... more exciting information to follow.



Whilst each and every day at the pre-school is filled with learning from all areas of our curriculum the 'Journey through the animal kingdom' topic will be focusing and supporting the following curriculum aims:

#### Understanding the world

- I enjoy exploring the natural world.
- I show understanding about respecting the natural world.
- Making connections between the here and now to my own experiences.
- I am naturally curious about the world I live in and ask questions.
- I know about the world, how it consists of many different countries with different people in each.
- I know that everybody is different and unique.
- I can respect other people and their own ideas, culture, beliefs and interests.
- I can talk about my own experiences of the world.

#### 'Our journey through the animal kingdom' time table looks like this.

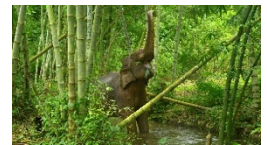
Wk 06/03/23

Expedition to the poles.



Wk 13/03/23

Exploring the jungle.



Wk 20/03/23

Diving under the sea



Wk 27/03/23

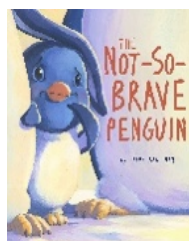
Safari through Africa



## Home learning ideas

- Sharing some (pre-vetted) clips of animal documentaries. David Attenborough does some fantastic series. The Frozen Planet and the Blue Planet would be perfect. This will give the children the opportunity to take ownership of their own learning by being able to share information that they have learnt at home with us at the pre-school.
- Have a little visit to a travel agents and pick up some holiday brochures and look through the different countries together. Lots of talk encouraging your child's curiosity about the world, helping them to ask questions.
- Ask your child to teach the family the 'Animal Freeze' song and dance. The song can be found on YouTube with a picture of a koala on. 
- I know some children with older siblings often ask if they can have homework too, so for those children who would, I have attached a Penguin activity to have a go at. (Please ask if you need a printed copy)

Please could I remind you that we have an open-door ethos at the pre-school. I am happy to chat at any time or welcome you to join us in the pre-school.



All stories can be borrowed from the pre-school with our 'Story Sloth Sleepover Sack'.

## Story Corner.

While books play a big part of our daily curriculum we do like to select a few that we look at closely during the term, using the stories to support our curriculum aims for the children. Below are the stories we have chosen and just some of the curriculum aims we intend them to support:

Fidgety Fish by Ruth Galloway - A lovely story about a young fish who just couldn't keep still so mum tells him to go out but warns him to stay away from the big fish. The story is a nice way to teach listening and attention, following instructions, exploring the world and thinking about dangers and keeping safe.



Monkey Puzzle by Julia Donaldson - While a little monkey searches for his mum he learns that all animals are different. A lovely story to support helpfulness, friendships, celebrating individuality and teaching about life cycles.



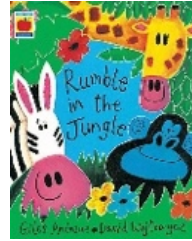
Snow Friends by M Christina Butler When little bear wakes from his winter sleep he is thrilled to discover snow but soon finds out it's not much fun without a friend. A charming story that teaches about the importance of friendship. It's a great book for talking about different emotions and how children might feel in different situations.



The Not So Brave Penguin by Steve Smallman - Posy the penguin is scared of almost everything but when her friend is missing she has to overcome some of her fears to help find him. This story often sparks conversations about children's fears and how they are brave in many situations. We also use this story for teaching about wandering off and getting lost, who can they ask for help etc.

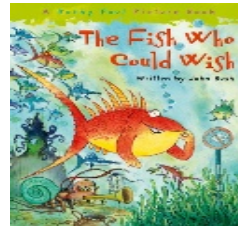
## Rumble in the Jungle by Giles Andreae &

David Wojtowycz- a fabulous rhyming book that travels through the jungle discovering many jungle animals. The book introduces the children to some animals they may have never seen. With its rhyming text it is fantastic to support early reading skills.



## The Fish Who Could Wish by John Bush

Deep in the ocean there was a silly fish who could have all his wishes granted. This story encourages lots of imaginative talk and play, along with using counting to count the number of wishes fish made.



### Diary Dates:

- Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Mar – End of Spring term
- Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Apr – Easter Egg Hunt
- Tue 18<sup>th</sup> Apr – Start of Summer term
- Mon 1<sup>st</sup> May – May Day (Pre-school CLOSED)
- Mon 8<sup>th</sup> May – King's Coronation Bank Holiday (Pre-school CLOSED)
- Mon 29<sup>th</sup> May – Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Jun (inclusive) – Half term
- Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Jul – Sports Day (10am – 12:00pm)
- Thu 13<sup>th</sup> Jul – End of term
- Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Jul – Leavers Celebration (**only for those children leaving Little Fingers**)
- Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Sep – Start of Autumn term 2023

### How can you help?

If you have any interesting items at home that will enhance our current topic, we would love to see it at pre-school. It could be things that you have picked up on the travels, interesting photographs or information books. Thank you!