



Summer Term 1 2025



'I wonder about animals great and small'

Summer 1 Topics

Welcome back everyone! We hope you all had a great Easter break. Our first week back at school will be a busy week. We start the week with Earth/Art day and then continue the rest of the week with a wellbeing focus. Please look out for a 'Kindness Challenge' homework which will be sent out at the end of the first week back.

For the remainder of this half term, our learning will be centred around animals and their habitats. We'll begin by exploring dinosaurs, while reflecting on our recent trip to the Norris Museum and discovering how museums help us understand the past. After that, we'll move on to learn about various animals and how they've adapted to their environments. We'll also explore the animals of Africa, delve into the continent itself, and learn about the plants and fruits that thrive there.

We have several Reception families who used to live in various countries within Africa. If you have any photographs of your time in Africa, we would love to be able to share these with Rabbits and Squirrels. Please could we ask you to send in any photographs to office@eastfield.cambs.sch.uk

PE

Please remember that our PE days have now changed to Tuesdays. We have also asked that our Reception children now come into school in their PE kits on Tuesdays as part of our transition work in preparing them for the move to Year 1. As the children will be in these clothes throughout the day, they are more than welcome to wear plain black leggings or jogging bottoms, along with their school jumpers whilst the weather is cooler. Then as the weather gets warmer, the children are welcome to wear plain black shorts instead.

Being outdoors

We have now sent home most children's PE kits, however, please can we ask that all children continue to have a set of (named) spare clothes to keep on their pegs. Due to the nature of our topics, we will be spending lots of our time learning outside. We will try our best to make sure children wear aprons and wellies when working with mud etc but the children may occasionally get messy. We have a very limited amount of spare clothing in school and the children always feel more comfortable being able to get changed into their own clothes.

Please could we also remind all parents and carers to limit accessing the outside equipment before and after school. We need to ensure that the pathways are kept clear and safe for everyone moving around and so therefore say that the bikes and scooters cannot be used. At the end of the day, the equipment is tidied away to keep it safe from the weather, however this hasn't always been possible after children have accessed the equipment during home time. It is particularly important that children do not use any of the equipment in the Playgroup Garden. This all belongs to Club 4 U and not the school and is specifically designed for much younger children.

Key Dates

Wednesday 23rd April - Earth/Art Day

Friday 25th April - Frozen Fridays return

Thursday 1st May - Eid Tea after school

Thursday 8th May, 9:00am - Squirrel class assembly

Saturday 10th May - ESA Family Bingo

Thursday 24th April - Art Gallery after school

Wednesday 30th April - Class photographs

Monday 5th May - Bank Holiday

Friday 9th May, 9:00am - Rabbit class assembly

Tuesday 13th May - Maths in Stories Day

If you have any questions please pop in before or after school and speak to a member of the Reception Team.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This half term we will be focusing on developing our understanding of how to work as a team, along with self-improvement. We will be linking this closely with our PE lessons where we will work together to engage in multi-skill focused PE lessons. We will be also looking at how we can challenge ourselves both inside and outside the classroom.

Physical Development

We will continue focusing on our fine motor skills and practising lots of smaller movements to help us develop our letter formation and size control. We will build on our understanding of letter size and how some letters are tall and some are small.

During our PE lessons, will be focusing on multi-skills. We will be learning about how we can work in a team, use our communication skills to support our work with others, along with developing our accuracy in throwing and catching activities.

Communication and Language

Reception children will be using this term to develop our understanding of recalling and sharing facts and information about what we have learnt, as well as applying key vocabulary.

The children will need to build their listening skills and be able to recall information that it shared with them.

Literacy

During this half term we will be beginning phase 4 phonics. Although there are no new sounds in phase 4, we start to look at clusters of sounds. We will be supporting the children in becoming much more confident in using and applying some of those trickier digraphs and trigraphs, especially in sentences and texts.

Within our writing, we will be focusing on sentence structure, using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.

We will also be sharing lots of non-fiction texts, looking at key features of non-fiction texts and comparing them to fiction texts.

Mathematics

This half term, we will be applying all of our knowledge of additions and subtractions to help us learn about doubling, halving and sharing.

The children will then use their new skills to solve problems and begin to look at patterns in numbers such as odds and evens.

Understanding the world

We will have a big focus on Understanding of the World this half term.

We will begin the term learning about dinosaurs and linking this back to our visit to the Norris Museum and the fossils we saw there.

Towards the end of this half term, we will be finding out all about different parts of Africa, the animals that live there and how these compare to where we live.

Expressive Art and Design

For Expressive Arts and Design we will be learning about how to use a variety of materials and media for a planned effect and ensure that we look closely for detail and colour. For Earth Day/Art Day, we will be thinking about reusable energy, especially solar power. We will then look at artists who have used sunlight as their inspiration. Whilst learning about Africa, we will also learn about examples of African artwork and how colours and patterns fit into this.