



### Reception Curriculum Newsletter- Spring 1 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a nice break.

Our topic this term is Amazing Animals, we will be doing lots of learning about animals.

We are very excited to be starting Forest School this term. We will now only have one PE lesson a week (on a Thursday for both classes) and Forest School will be the second physical lesson led by Mr Pratt. Please ensure your child has a puddle suit/waterproof trousers for their session.

Please could we ask that you are reading with your child at least twice a week and that it is recorded in their reading journal. Once both books have been read twice at home, they will be changed on Tuesdays. Please bring your reading books to school every day. Your child has also started to receive RWI resources, such as QR codes for games and sound lessons, please look out for more, in your child's book bag, to support your child at home.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,

Miss Yong, Mrs Bannon, Miss Bogush, Mrs Herbert, Miss Tustain and Mrs Harvey

#### Reminders

**Forest School will be on a Monday for Ash and Tuesday for Oak.**

Please ensure on Forest School days your child comes to school wearing suitable clothing. This does not have to be school uniform. Please provide a **puddle suit** or **waterproof trousers** to keep your child warm and dry.

**PE lessons are on a Thursday for both classes.**

*Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit on this day and that it is named. Please ensure long hair is tied back.*



**Library** – Your child will bring home a library book every Wednesday. Please return each week so that they can select a new one.



Follow us on X (previously Twitter) (@HighwoodSchool) where we will be sharing excellent learning.

#### Communication and Language

We will be reading lots of stories and learning new vocabulary associated with animal themed books.

Our topic this term is Amazing Animals. We will be using lots of vocabulary associated with animals. We will be encouraging children to ask questions to find out facts and information.



#### Physical Development

During our PE lessons we will be developing our gymnastic skills. Within this unit, we will be looking at various rolls and learning to balance.

We will also be continuing to develop our fine motor skills so that we are ready for writing. We will be developing our gross motor skills by negotiating space when on the wheeled toys in our outdoor area.



#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

In Reception we will be continuing to develop friendships within our class and will be talking about the Highwood Golden Rules. We will building on our previous learning and practising our skills in turn taking and sharing ideas.

Jigsaw Jenie will be helping us to talk about our dreams and our goals. We aim to be resilient learners and stay motivated when things get a little bit tricky. Jenie will help us to develop these important skills.



#### Home Learning

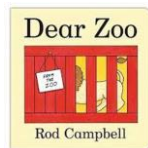
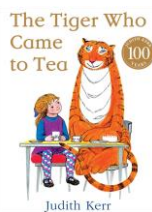
Please see the home-learning grid for some fun activities you can do at home with your child to consolidate their learning.

Take some time to look at your child's library book together. Encourage your child to talk about the pictures.

Home learning is due in on Tuesdays and will be handed back on a Thursday.

## Literacy

This term we will be focusing on lots of animal based books. We will be using lots of story language and new vocabulary. Here are some of the books we may cover:



We will also be continuing to learn to read, write and recognise new sounds in phonics.

## Mathematics

In Maths, we will be looking at matching numerals to quantities within five. There will be a particular focus on counting and finding one more or less than a given number.



## Understanding the World

In January it is Lunar New Year, the year of the snake. We will be learning about how people celebrate it.



We will be doing lots of learning based around animals, looking at where they live, what they eat and their body parts. We will be comparing and asking lots of questions about them.



## Expressive Arts and Design

We will be designing our own homes for the animals we learn about using a range of construction sets.



This term we will be listening to music of different cultures and learning how to move to the music in different ways.



We will also be re-creating the Henri Rousseau famous painting 'Tiger in a Tropical Storm' using water colours.

## Request for donations

We constantly strive to improve our learning environment to make it more engaging and exciting for our children. We would be grateful for donations of any of the following that you may have and no longer need:

- Out of date/unwanted bags of flour that we can use to make dough
- Any out of date vinegar, shaving foam, cornflour
- Arts and craft items including pipe cleaners, sequins, glitter, etc.
- Spare clothes including socks

While being voluntary the Early Years Fund is very much appreciated. From it we buy lots of little extras such as ingredients for making play dough and cooking activities. It is £7.00 each term. Payments can be made electronically through the School Gateway. If you need help with setting up this app, please speak to somebody in the office.

