



# Fleet Primary School

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# Animal Adventures

## Reception Summer Term



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope everyone had a relaxing Easter break. Spring is in full swing and the sun is starting to shine. It has been lovely having the children back and has been amazing to see how quickly they settled back before the Easter holidays and the new term is off to a fantastic start.

This term our topic is called *Animal Atlas*.

We will be learning about animals from around the world, focusing on a continent at a time.

The children's own favourite animals will help guide the learning as well as a key text each week.

These are some but certainly not all of the key texts...



## Phonics

We will continue with our daily phonics sessions this term. This will be a priority for us as it is fundamental for reading and writing.

This term some we will carry on learning phase 2 letter sounds.



Some children are ready to move onto phase 3 and will be learning the following sounds -



If there are sounds your child would benefit from practising a little more at home, I will write these on card and pop them into your child's bookbag. Please keep an eye out for these.

When the children start in year 1, they will begin with phase 3 sounds so it's important that we try and support them as much as possible to be confident and secure with phase 2.

## Reading

Please continue to read to and with your child everyday. It really is the best thing you can do to help them with their learning.

The aim for reading in Reception is for the children to be able to read a simple sentence using their phonological understanding. This sentence may include some irregular words, 'tricky words' such as *the*, *to*, *was* and *you*. Short, frequent bursts of practise will help them achieve this.

When reading their guided reading book encourage them to...

- Say the sounds to read the word.
- Use the first letter to think what the word could be.
- Search the pictures for clues.
- Reread from the start of the sentence to ensure understanding.
- Jump over a word if unsure and come back to it. Use what makes sense to think what the word could be.



You can also help your child to become a lifelong reader by –

- Reading yourself where your child can see you, this shows them you value reading.
- Letting your child handle the book and turn the pages when reading together.
- Give books as rewards.
- Listen to books on CDs or online.
- Reread favourite books again and again.
- Read recipes together when cooking or baking.
- Make movies retelling favourite stories.

## Writing

The aim by the end of Reception in writing is for the children to write a simple sentence **independently** with phonetically plausible attempts, meaning they can hear and write the key sounds in words on their own.

The children will be given ample opportunities to write both through their play and with adult supported activities. You can help at home by encouraging your child to make cards for their friends, write shopping lists, write little reminders and do lots of drawing.

## How to help -

When writing with your child, encourage them to tell you their ideas.

Talk is very important for the writing process.

Then you could say, "Great idea! What will you write down?" Help them formulate a sentence.

Practise saying this a couple of times so they remember their sentence.

Next say, "What's your first word? What sounds can you hear?" Encourage them to say the word slowly and listen for dominant sounds. They might need to say the word a number of times to hear these. I say to them to stretch the word out like chewing gum. Then they write the sounds they can hear in order.

It's important they try to do this themselves, rather than copying what you've written.

Please hold back on correcting them too much and remember their writing attempts will match their phonetic understanding. It's better for them to write independently and feel confident as a writer than to be confused with phonic rules they don't yet understand. For example, they might write, *nit* for night, *funee* for funny or *elefnt* for elephant. This is completely acceptable and

appropriate for their age. They are just at the very start of their writing journey so we need to help them feel confident in the process.

### **Mathematics**

We will continue to have lots of fun this term with Maths, building number knowledge through games and our play.



The Reception learning goal in *Number* is for the children to count reliably from one to 20, order number to 20 and say what is one more or one less from a given number. Using quantities and objects, they add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer. They solve problems, including doubling, halving and sharing. Each week, one of these areas will be our focus and the children will have access to games and activities that will support their understanding.

For *Shape, Space and Measures* the children will be taught to use everyday language for size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money. We will explore everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them. Pattern making will also be a focus and fits perfectly with our animals topic, looking at different animal strips and patterns.

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

There will be lots of fun making and creating happening this term.

We will make animal masks, 3D animal paper mache models as well as drawing, painting and collage activities.

We will explore music from around the world and use this for both our own music making and dance. The children will also learn lots of new songs about animals.

The class is very strong with role-play and really enjoy this. We will set up new role-play areas based on interests that crop up during the term.

### **Physical Development**

This term we will have PE on Tuesday mornings and Thursday morning. Our focuses will be ball skills and athletics. We will no longer have our PE time with Coach Keely as it is Nursery's turn.

To support with fine motor development, the children will have access to lots of sensory resources, treading activities, cutting with scissors and jobs such as helping to chop up food. This helps to build up the muscles in their hands they need for writing. We will also have a focus group of letter we work on each week.

Thank you in advance for your support and please let me know if there is anything you need,

Beth Cleine