



For this half term our topic is 'Jaws, Paws and Claws' which will involve work across the curriculum subjects, including science, design and technology, art and personal, social and health education (PSHE). The children will be finding out about plants and animals in our local environment and how to look after them.

In literacy the children will carry on to embed the skills already learnt to create interesting fiction, non-fiction and poetry writing pieces. They will be reading and writing information texts about different animals (including sharks and big cats) and then write their own fact file and animal diaries. They will learn all sorts of information about the animals - their habitats, what they eat and lots of other interesting facts and then present this information in a structured way.

You could support this work by finding books at home or visiting the library to borrow a selection of books about animals that your child finds interesting (preferably those with paws, jaws or claws). How are the books similar? What features do all of the texts have that your child could include in their own work?

We will be continuing to develop the children's comprehension skills in school and we ask that whenever you hear your child read, to also check that they comprehend the text by asking questions. There are two types of comprehension; literal and inferential. Literal comprehension is where the information is stated in the text (you can get the answer directly from the text). In inferential comprehension, the information is not stated specifically in the text and your child might need to use their background knowledge to 'infer' what is happening. This is often referred to as 'reading between the lines'.

In numeracy the children will continue to improve their number line skills and use these skills to answer one and two-step word problems involving money and measures. They will need to recognise all coins and notes and be able to add them together to make amounts in different ways. They will also continue their work on solving problems that include all four operations and fractions.

Please share any money or measure problems with your child that come up in everyday life, e.g. measuring ingredients for a recipe, paying for items or working out change when shopping. Support may also be needed if your child still struggles to tell the time to the nearest 15 minute interval.

It would be helpful if you could continue to practise answering arithmetic questions with your children at home, using mental and pictorial methods when needed.

In science the children will be exploring and comparing the differences between things that are living, things that have died and things that have never been alive. They will learn how most living things exist in habitats to which they are suited and they will need to be able to describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants and how they depend on each other. They will be able to describe how animals obtain their food from either plants or other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain.

Perhaps you could have a look at what is growing or living in your garden or a local park and think about why those plants or animals might be living in that particular place. If you find a plant or animal that you don't recognise, use information books or the internet to help you to identify them.

Our RE work includes a topic on 'Special Journeys'. During these lessons the children will learn about places that are special to Christians (their pilgrimage) to Lourdes and Muslims (the Hajj) to Mecca and why. They will be finding out about why some people go on pilgrimages to these special places and what happens when they get there.

Our lessons in P.E. will focus on dance this half term. The children will be nature explorers going into the forest at night looking out for nocturnal animals.

The children will continue their music sessions this half term and will be taking part in 'African Drumming' workshops. There will be a final musical concert of Year Two at the end of this half term - we hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Homework Challenge – Animal Challenge: To produce a fact file, poster or presentation to demonstrate how much they know about an animal that has either jaws, paws or claws. Alternatively, they could create a model of the animal to display in the school (please be conscious of sizing).