



Year R Curriculum Report – Spring Term B

We are going to use 'Animals' as the stimulus for our learning for the next half term, focusing on farm animals. We are looking forward to a trip to Northney Farm on the 24 March, where we will find out about the workings of a farm and even enjoy some ice-cream made on site from their dairy! This, along with our visit from Longdown Dairy Farm on 18 March, will provide the context for lots of our learning activities this half term.

Here is an outline of the key objectives we will be covering in each area of learning:

Personal, social and emotional development: We will be learning about our bodies, naming the external parts including less obvious parts such as ankle, thigh and wrist. We will talk about growing and how we change from young to old. This will also link to our learning about farm animals and their babies. As part of learning about Health and Self-Care we are going to reinforce skills for personal hygiene – e.g. hand washing and flushing the toilet.

Physical Development continues to be a focus for all children. We are continuing to learn to form all our letters correctly using the school script. Working on the letters in your child's name is a good starting place. Once they are confident with these letters, try practising the "teddy words" and the handwriting booklet which was sent home last half term.

Alongside this there will be opportunities to develop gross motor skills through outdoor play and PE sessions. **Please ensure your child's PE kit is in school every day and that all items are named – especially if you have bought new items.** It would be worth checking that your child's clothes are still the right size – some children are finding jumpers hard to get on and off as they have grown since September!

Communication and Language: In order to achieve the expected level for the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage in July, children need to be using tenses correctly when they speak. You can support your child with this by modelling talking in full sentences as much as possible and correcting errors they frequently make. We will explore recounting our experiences and telling stories; encourage your child to extend their language and recount skills by using words such as "and", "then", "next", "before" or "later on" to expand their accounts.

Literacy: In literacy sessions we will continue to develop the children's phonic knowledge through daily group sessions. Some children are beginning to learn 'digraphs' (two letters that make one sound – e.g. ch, ee, or). Each sound has a rhyme to help children remember it; they can be found on the school website – please look under the Useful Documents in the Parents Page tab. We are also continuing to explore "tricky words" with a focus on "was", "you" and "he" this half term. Keep an eye out for these words and ask your child if they recognise them!

An important part of becoming a successful reader and writer is developing the confidence to use these skills independently. You can help your child with this by making sure there are books to read and writing resources available at home, as well as ensuring that you participate in the Reading Challenge as often as possible. Remember that the Waterlooville library is free and has a vast variety of books for children to read!

Mathematics: This half term we will be exploring subtraction, thinking about using tens frames, numicon and counting back from a number. We will also be exploring measurement, with a focus on weight and capacity. Please continue to support your child's number recognition to 20, with a focus on 'teen' numbers in particular.

Understanding of the world: We are going to learn about the world through our topic of animals. Our farm visits will provide us with an opportunity to make close observations of animals, and to talk about how they change.

We will be exploring different technologies with a focus on mouse control.

As the weather warms up and spring time arrives we will be learning about 'new life' and linking this to the Christian celebration of Easter.

Expressive Arts and Design: We have set up a variety of role-play areas including a farm shop. This is a great opportunity for the children to experience a range of fruit and vegetables, as well as exchanging money for goods. As always, there will be a variety of opportunities for children to explore painting, drawing and sculpture through play.

Home learning challenge:

This half term, our home learning challenges are:

- 1) Chat: Try a fruit or vegetable that you have never had before! Can you describe what it looks like, smells like, feels like and tastes like?
- 2) Play: Create a model of a farm animal using any media that you would like. Take a picture and put it on tapestry or print it out to show us!
- 3) Read: Research about products that come from different animals. You could use a book from your local library or use the internet with a grown-up.



Reminders

Learning Journey

Thank you to the parents who are already contributing to their child's Learning Journey through Tapestry. It would be great for more parents to add their contributions about what your child has learnt at home – this could be cooking, painting, reading or amazing you with their knowledge of the world!

Parent Helpers

If anyone is able to help in class (it doesn't have to be every week) for even just half an hour, please let your child's class teacher know. We need helpful parents to do anything from reading with children, playing games with small groups and even sorting and folding paper. We will always find a job for you!

Coats and Jumpers

Your child must have a waterproof coat in school every day even when the weather starts to improve. They go outside to play even when it's a little damp and raining, so please ensure that they have a hood! We also ask that coats and jumpers are all named so we can help ensure they come home with your child.