

Winter Wonderland and Animal Safari

In the Winter Wonderland project, your child will explore the seasonal changes that happen during winter. They will find out about the different weather associated with the winter season and explore changes that happens to water as it freezes. They will find out about what happens to plants and animals during cold weather and explore places in the world that are always cold and snowy, including the animals that live there.

In the Animal Safari project, your child will learn about incredible animals that live worldwide. They will explore various animal habitats and compare the animals that live there with animals in their locality. They will learn how to care for pets and what all animals need to grow, survive and stay happy and healthy. They will explore animal features and find out how they survive in the wild. They will compare the ways that animals are similar and different.

Areas of Learning	Early Learning Goals
Communication and Language	Listening, attention and understanding; Speaking
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Building Relationships; Self-Regulation; Managing Self
Physical Development	Gross Motor Skills; Fine Motor Skills
Literacy	Comprehension; Word Reading; Writing
Mathematics	Numbers; Numerical Patterns
Understanding the World	Past and Present; People, Culture and Communities; The Natural World
Expressive arts and design	Creating with Materials; Being imaginative and Expressive

**Core texts**

**Fiction** - My Africa Vacation - Ozi Okaro

**Non fiction** – What can you see in Winter? Sian Smith

**Poetry** – I can build a snowman and Pancakes by Christina Rossetti

## Supporting your child at home

- Go on a winter walk and talk about how the environment has changed since the summer months.
- Put bird food out in the garden or on a window ledge and observe the birds that visit.
- Leave water out in a shallow container overnight on a cold night and see if the water freezes.
- If it snows, build a snowman, and take a photo of it to share with the rest of the class.
- Share and discuss the [Did you know?](#) resources (see below).
- Go on a local safari to find out about animals that live in your garden or park.
- Look at animals from around the world, discuss your favourite animals and find out some fantastic facts.

## Homework

Reading with your child at least 5 times a week (please write daily in the yellow reading record book). Please return yellow books and reading books on a **Monday** for a new weekly book. We will visit the school library and bring a book home on **Monday**. Please return library books every **Monday** ready to take a new one home.

## Spring term

- Practising reading weekly and green and red words
- Counting sounds (clapping) and counting actions (jumps/ hops) from 1-10
- Understand one more, one less
- Count on and back from a given number
- Using Fred Fingers to support writing CVC words (consonant, vowel, consonant). Holding 3 fingers up and pinching 1 sound on 1 finger to help spell words.





## Reminders

Please provide your child with only essential resources e.g. reading book (we will send home reading books or reading resources, within a couple of weeks of your child starting school) and named lunch box (if not having hot meals).

Please provide your child with a named, refillable water bottle that is taken home each day for washing. We recommend a book bag to hold their books and sheets of paper as it can be quite hard to fit things in a rucksack. Book bags are available to purchase at Maisies.

PE will take place on **Wednesday**. Please send your child to school wearing their PE kit and sport shoes, which they will continue to wear throughout the day.

The adults in Reception are:

Mrs James – Phase 1 Leader and Class teacher on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

Mrs McGarragh – Deputy Headteacher and Class teacher on a Thursday

Ms Corbett and Mrs Woods (Teaching Assistants)

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs James

Early Years Leader

## Did you know?



Read these interesting facts about winter with a parent, carer or teacher.



There are four seasons. They are spring, summer, autumn and winter.



Winter is one of the seasons. In winter, the days are short and the nights are long.



The weather can be very cold in winter and water in puddles and ponds can freeze into ice.



Sometimes it snows in winter.



Lots of trees have no leaves in winter and not many plants can grow.



Some places are cold and snowy all year round like the Arctic and the Antarctic.

## Did you know?



Read these interesting facts about animals with a parent, carer or teacher.



Carnivores eat other animals. Herbivores eat plants. Omnivores eat plants and other animals.



Mammals are animals that breathe air, have warm blood and give birth to live babies.



Reptiles are animals that breathe air, have dry, scaly skin and lay eggs.



Birds are animals that breathe air, have beaks and feathers and lay eggs.



A habitat is a natural home for plants and animals. Animals need food, water and shelter to survive in their habitat.



Camouflage is an animal's natural colouring or pattern that helps it blend in with its surroundings.