

Our topic for this half term is 'How is Sunny the meerkat's different to ours? We are focusing on the books 'Meerkat Mail' by Emily Gravett and 'Lila and the secret of the rain' by David Conway and Jude Daly. Through both books, the children will be exploring and comparing a desert environment in Africa and their own locality. Our first character is Sunny the meerkat who lives with his extended family in the Kalahari Desert and is fed up with two things - the place where he lives and the people (or meerkats!) he lives with. It's time to move on, so he packs his suitcase, writes a note and starts his search for a better place to settle. Needless to say, each place seems to have its own set of problems and Sunny finally arrives at the eternal message 'there is no place like home'.

English Fiction

The children will have the opportunity to write their own stories based on a journey like Sunny's. They will be learning to carefully select vocabulary to make their writing more interesting when describing each place he visits. Using the 'Talk for Writing' approach they will change the setting and characters in their own stories. Children will be developing their use of Word banks to help extend their vocabulary. In daily guided reading the children will be developing their comprehension skills through a variety of fiction and non-fiction within the appropriate books band. The children will also be using their experience at YWP to help them write non-fiction reports on animals around the world.

Spelling

The focus will be revision of phase five graphemes and their alternatives. In addition to this, children will become secure with the spelling of year two common exception words-lists. Each Friday, focus spellings will be sent home in their home-school liaison books.

Learning Behaviours and Class Dojos

At the start of term we will be looking at the behaviours that make a successful learner. On our main display, there will be the visual prompts that your children will be encouraged to use when learning at home or at school. We have a class dojo system where children can earn dojos for trying to use skills linked to these behaviours. As a reward for working hard, each week a child will be presented with the 'Star of the week' award and they can choose a class meerkat to take home for the weekend. We also have our meerkat pet 'Sunny' who loves to travel. He is available for children to take home if they are doing something they would like to write in Sunny's diary about. Eg. A party, outing, holiday etc.

Maths

We follow a scheme of learning called Maths Mastery and our half term key learning objectives are on display in our classroom.

The focus for the first two weeks will be on place value. We shall be using a lot of practical activities and apparatus to develop the concept of number value to 100 and over.

They will then move onto addition and subtraction of two numbers. During this time we will be sharpening our mental number recall of number bonds to 20, doubles and near doubles, The final weeks are focusing on addition and subtraction word problems. Knowing number facts is a very important skill and class five will be challenged to the Ninja' maths challenge. This will involve knowing different number facts by heart and earning coloured belts as they progress through each level. Please see the chart in your child's homework folder.

Scientific and technological understanding

We are going to be leaning about different animals and their habitats around the world. Our visit will help us understand how animals adapt to survive in their environment.

History and geography

Building on from work in year one, the focus will be on mapping and compass skills. The children will learn to name and locate their local area, town, four countries and surrounding seas. In addition to this, they will develop their awareness of physical and human features of different places around the world.

Art and Design

Using the art and traditions of the people of The Kalahara Desert, we will be developing our printing, collage and paint skills to create an African hut, jewellery and masks.

In technology, we will be learning how to measure, cut and join different materials when we made a replica of Rocket Park.

Health and Wellbeing:

As part of Jigsaw we will be discussing how we feel 'Being me in my world.' We will be exploring our hopes and fears ahead of us this year and recognise how to become a successful learner.

Religious Education

During our study of Christianity, we will be learning to understand Bible stories that show kindness and how this influences how Christians behave towards people

Family Learning Session-

Tuesday 24h September 9am

We are going to create a time capsule for each child in the class which we will seal until July 2020. Please come along on- to help your child create their capsule.

Visits

We are visiting Yorkshire Wildlife park on Tuesday 17th September-a letter was sent out in July about this visit.

We are also hoping to go out and about in the local area to develop our geography fieldwork skills. More information to follow.

*** Reminders ***

PE kits

Each week your child will participate in two PE sessions. Children need to bring PE kits to school on Monday and leave it in school until Friday.

All children must have appropriate PE kit and should not wear any jewellery including earrings.

School times.

The lower school doors open at 8:45 am and close at 9am The children begin the day with morning activities that give them the opportunity to consolidate their learning in all areas of the curriculum.

We openly invite parents to come and join their children in their activities. This is a time during which you can speak to the staff about your child's progress or any concerns which you may have.

Morning session: 91m-12pm
Afternoon session 1.15pm-3.15pm

Homework

Each week children need to regularly read their reading book and practise their spellings. In the next week , information about 'Maths with Parents' will be sent home. This is an on-line resource which will provide explanations and activities for you to do at home with your child. In addition to this, children will have a 'take-away' homework menu where they can choose three of the activities to do each half term. All of the activities are linked to our topic.

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**Class Four
Curriculum Newsletter**

**Autumn Term One
How is Sunny the meerkat's
home different to ours?**

2019

