



The Giles Nursery and Infants' School

Spring Term 2026
Newsletter



Ladybird class

Our topic this half term is **"Animals"** and our topic for next half term is **"Growing"**. The children will be listening to a variety of stories and looking at nonfiction books about animals living in different environments. They will be celebrating the Lunar New Year, Mother's Day, and Easter. The children will be taking part in variety of activities during 'Book Week'. They will be observing changes during springtime and learning what conditions seeds and bulbs need to grow.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Our themes across the school for this term are 'Dreams and Goals'. During circle time activities, the children will discuss what a challenge is and take part in a challenge such as putting on their own coat. They will learn how to keep going to achieve a goal and think about how to use kind words to encourage others. The children will learn how to keep their body healthy by eating healthy foods and understand that they need to be active to be healthy. They will learn the names of some body parts.

Communication and Language

The children will be listening to a variety of stories about animals, such as 'Ridiculous!' by Michael Coleman, 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell and 'Rumble in the Jungle' by Giles Andreae. They will read non-fiction books about animals living in different environments. The children will hear lots of different stories and rhymes from around the world. Our phonics sessions will continue to develop the children's listening and communication skills. The children will continue to learn about rhyme and alliteration. They will practise blending and segmenting sounds in words and continue to identify syllables in words.

Physical Development

Fine Motor skills:



The children will continue to develop their fine motor skills with activities such as threading, using different size scoops, mark making tools and manipulating dough.

Gross motor skills:



The children will have daily opportunities to play outside in the garden. They will use small equipment such as balls and hoops and participate in turn-taking and team games. They will go on a Jungle animal hunt and move around to music as pretending to be an animal.

Literacy

Our stories will be 'Ridiculous!' by Michael Coleman, 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell and 'Rumble in the Jungle' by Giles Andreae. They will read non-fiction books about animals living in different environments. Our topic-based themes will be used to structure many of the literacy activities. The children are encouraged to take books home from our library to share with their parents. They will see writing modelled by adults and explore mark-making through a range of emergent writing activities. There will be lots of opportunities to explore mark-making. The children will be encouraged to write their initial sound of their name onto their pictures using their name cards as a guide. The children will be writing in their celebration cards, writing lists of the food we will eat in our Chinese Takeaway, labels in the Construction Areas for their models and making a bookmark during World Book Day.

Mathematics

Our 'Jungle Animals' topic will involve creating repeating patterns on spiral snakes, looking at animal patterns and a bar chart to show our favourite animals. We will use animals for sorting and developing positional language. Each day the children will practise their counting and number recognition. The numeracy activities, based on our growing topic, will involve sing shapes for flower pictures and observing and monitoring the changes of their seeds over time.



Understanding the World

The children will investigate animal patterns and find out animal facts. They will compare the local environment with a jungle environment. The children will celebrate the Lunar New Year and experience eating with chopsticks. They will sow cress seeds, look for signs of spring and find out about life cycles observing the life cycle of a butterfly when the Nursery caterpillars arrive!

Expressive Arts and Design

Creative activities will allow the children to use a variety of materials and techniques to paint their favourite animal and create animal patterns and masks. They will use clay to make pots, sew around animal templates and make camouflage pictures. The children will be using a variety of media to make lambs, butterfly prints, a Mother's Day card and an Easter card. Our role-play area this term will be a jungle and a Chinese takeaway. The children will be learning songs, action rhymes and playing a variety of percussion instruments together. They will listen to Chinese and African music and work together to move like a dragon and use African instruments.

Reminders

Stay and Play sessions will continue on Thursdays between 8.30-9.20am and 12.30-1.20pm. Our first stay and play session this term will be Thursday 21st January, to allow our new children time to settle into Ladybird Class.

Thank you for all the wonderful support. We hope you find this newsletter helpful and informative about your child's learning this term. If you have any items relating to our topic which we could share

or display with the children, please let us know. Please can we ask for all of your child's belongings to be named.

The Giles Nursery Team

Class Teacher

Miss Edwards

Early Years Practitioners

Mrs Jeffery, Mrs Morgan, Mrs Kimble, Mrs Aba

Teaching Assistants

Mrs Ravi, Miss Smith