

Functional English

Key Books

Dear Zoo
Rumble in the Jungle
That's Not My Elephant

Reading:

This term, we're going on an exciting animal adventure through our books! We'll explore all sorts of wild creatures, from the friendly animals in Dear Zoo to the loud and lively ones in Rumble in the Jungle. Each story will come to life with fun sensory activities, like feeling soft, bumpy, and furry textures, making animal sounds, and using our AAC devices to show our favourite animals. Get ready to giggle, roar, and stomp along with us as we discover the magic of animals through books!

Writing:

This term we will be getting messy and creative with our marks! We're going to explore meaningful mark-making, where there's no right or wrong way to express ourselves. Whether it's making swirly scribbles, drawing animal shapes, or using fingers to leave fun marks in sand or foam, we'll be practicing our pre-writing skills in the most playful ways. Our hands, crayons, and even our feet will help us make marks and shapes as we prepare for the exciting world of writing!

Functional Maths

Number:

This term, we're going to explore Number through play! Whether we're counting toy animals, jumping in number hoops, or using counting songs, we'll explore numbers through playful activities that make learning feel like a game. Each lesson will focus on interactive activities like counting to 20 using colourful counters, playing "number hide and seek," and building number towers with blocks. Our number learning will be all about sensory fun, feeling the shapes of numbers, splashing in number puddles, or tracing numbers in foam!

Topic: Space

This half term we are going to explore space and positions with our animal friends! We'll be looking at where things are, like when a lion is on top of a mountain or when a zebra is behind a tree. Using toy animals and fun materials, we'll place animals in different spots and talk about where they are using words like "under," "next to," and "in front of."

Understanding the World

Science:

We will be looking at Animals at the Zoo this half term, we will be exploring a sensory story linked to the different animals in the story and exploring different animals during each session. We will be using communication boards during our story and different feeling items.

Humanities: History (Festivals Featuring Animals)

This half term, we'll explore how animals are a big part of exciting celebrations, like the dazzling dragon dances at Chinese New Year or the fun, animal-themed traditions during Harvest Festivals. We'll dive into sensory stories where we'll feel soft fur, hear roaring animals, and smell some festive treats.

Technology:

This half term we will be focusing on exploring simple technical coding toys such as remote-control cars and floor robots. Within our general IT skills, we will be looking at developing our independence in using technology such as holding the iPads correctly and using the IWB in a variety of lessons.

Physical Development

PE: Ball Skills

In this topic, pupils will develop fundamental ball skills such as rolling and receiving a ball, throwing to a target, bouncing and catching and kicking. Pupils will be able to develop their fine and gross motor skills through a range of play-based stations using a variety of equipment. Pupils will be given opportunities to play independently and with a partner.

Peterhouse Preparing for Adulthood (PFA)

Accessing the community:

Cycling

This term students will be developing their co-ordination and balance skills using scooters, balance bikes and bicycles. There is a focus to follow instructions such as start/stop and developing spatial awareness (avoiding obstacles and other riders).

PPFA – Healthy Lifestyles

This half term, our class will explore healthy lifestyles. We will explore different foods through sensory play, involving touching, smelling, licking and tasting in a low-pressure environment. We will pay close attention to mealtimes and the routines that surround this, giving pupils the opportunities to prepare for these themselves, e.g. finding their own placemat and making independent choices using visuals, tidying up plates and cutlery. We will participate in simple baking tasks, following visual instructions, and exploring ingredients.

Focus throughout the day will also be placed on regulation, and encouraging the pupils to self-regulate, offering different strategies.

Semi-formal Pathway

Big Idea: At the zoo Class: Hayley Term: Summer 1

The quality of our curriculum is underpinned by our autism pedagogy which is responsive to the individual needs of each pupil. Our five-point star approach provides a framework where the pupil sits at the centre of all we do. We understand that receptive and expressive communication is key to learning and we adapt our approaches to individual need. We also recognise and understand sensory differences and the impact these can have on our pupils. Alongside this we support our student's strengths so that they are motivated to learn. Our lessons are uniquely designed and personalised to prepare each pupil with their own skills and strategies for learning and life.

Rights of the Child Article No 24 – Right to Health

This half term, we will be exploring the importance of staying healthy in fun and meaningful ways. Pupils will take part in lots of active, movement-based play to support their physical health, including games, outdoor play, and exercise activities.

We will also be learning about healthy eating through hands-on experiences, such as making our own fruit salad and exploring different foods through sensory play. These activities will help pupils begin to understand how we look after our bodies in a way that is engaging, enjoyable, and appropriate to their needs.

Expressive Arts

Art:

Our class will be exploring animal-themed painting projects that support early creative skills and independence. Children will learn to choose and use colours carefully, selecting the right shades for different parts of their animal pictures. Through these activities, pupils will develop confidence, coordination, and enjoyment in expressing themselves through art.

Music:

Pupils will be learning a song about animals to the tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, and linking physical movement and instruments to a range of animals within the song such as elephant stomps (drums) or bird chirps (bells).

Creative Design Technology:

This term, our class will explore a range of simple, animal-themed craft activities that encourage creativity and sensory engagement. Children will work with different textures and materials to make fun creations such as masks, collages, and prints, all designed to support early developmental skills.

