Reception Term 4 Learning Overview

Welcome back Squirrel families! This term our new topic is: **"Paws, Claws and Animal Roars"**, where we'll be exploring wildlife, pets, habitats and what makes different animals special. We're hoping to include a visit to a farm later in the term to bring our learning to life — more details to follow soon!

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term we will be learning about different animal habitats and thinking about how living things need food, water and shelter to survive. We will talk about caring for animals and how we can show kindness and responsibility. During our farm visit, children will practise independence and following routines safely. We will also explore resilience and perseverance, just like animals who adapt to their environments.

Communication and Language

Children will develop their vocabulary by learning new words linked to habitats such as jungle, polar, desert and ocean. We will focus on using full sentences to describe animals and explain ideas clearly. Through stories, non-fiction books and discussions, children will practise listening carefully and asking questions. We will also explore rhyme, especially during our jungle week.

Physical Development

We will move in different ways to represent animals, developing balance, coordination and control. Outdoor learning will include movement games and obstacle activities linked to habitats. Fine motor skills will be strengthened through cutting, sticking, drawing and creating animal art and models. We will continue to develop pencil control and handwriting through our literacy sessions.

Literacy

This term we will explore a range of fiction and non-fiction books linked to our animal habitats theme, including stories such as *Rumble in the Jungle*, *What the Ladybird Heard* and other engaging animal texts. We will learn how to build simple sentences using a subject, verb and adjective, and practise using capital letters and full stops correctly. Children will begin to understand the difference between story books and factual books, noticing features such as photographs and information pages. We will also explore rhyme and rhythm in poetry and patterned texts, encouraging children to join in with repeated phrases and enjoy the sounds of language.

Topic:

Paws, Claws and Animal Roars

Mathematics

We will continue with our Mastering Number sessions to build confidence in number composition and comparison. Children will explore doubling and develop fluency within 10. Later in the term, we will recap 2D shapes and introduce various 3D shapes: cube, cuboid, sphere, cone, cylinder and pyramid. We will investigate their properties and identify them in our environment.

Understanding the World

Children will learn about different habitats around the world and compare how animals live in each one. We will explore polar regions, deserts, jungles, oceans and farms, including our visit to Godstone Farm. In RE, we will learn about the Easter story and why Christians place a cross in an Easter Garden. We will discuss similarities and differences between environments and how animals adapt to survive.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will create a range of artwork and models inspired by different habitats. Children will explore texture, colour and materials to represent animals and environments. Role play and small world areas will allow children to retell stories and develop imaginative ideas. We will also design and build our own Easter Gardens as part of our RE learning.

Reminders:

- **PE:** Thursday AM
- **Forest School:** Wednesday PM
- **Reading books:** Changed either weekly or every 3-4 days
- **Water bottles:** daily and named
- **Please name all clothing**
- **Mittens preferred** (gloves are ok)
- **Coat:** Needed daily, we go outside in all weathers.