



KS1 Autumn 1

All Creatures Great and Small!



Our topic

This half term we will be doing the topic 'All Creatures Great and Small'. We will be focusing our learning on the work of the inspirational author Nick Butterworth and using his illustrations as inspiration for our art work. We have lots of exciting opportunities planned, and we will be having a visit in from a mobile zoo and creating our own creatures from recycled materials.

Objectives we will cover this half term are...

Science	In Science this half term, we will be recapping and deepening our knowledge on the four seasons before learning about materials and their properties. We will be testing the durability of each material and selecting the most appropriate ones to create our very own creatures. These will be placed in the school gardens to test their durability.
Geography	In Geography, we will be looking at the UK and other surrounding countries. We will begin by naming and comparing countries, their capitals and famous landmarks. Then we will be exploring rural and urban areas and identifying human and physical features on a map.
Art	In Art this half term, we will be studying sculpture and form alongside painting and colour. We will start the half term looking at how secondary colours are made using primary colours. Then, we will move on to experiment with clay to strengthen our sculpting skills. We will be taking inspiration from the fantastic illustrations of Nick Butterworth's Percy the Parkkeeper stories.
Computing	In Computing, we will start our half term looking at different components of a computer, keyboard and mouse skills and start to consider how we use computing responsibly.
RE	In RE this half term, we will be focusing on the topic 'Who Am I?'. We will be talking about why we are all special in our own right and exploring our self-belonging. We will be using religious stories to link with our own personal experiences.
PE	In PE, we will be refining our gymnastics skills including balancing, rolling, jumping and sequencing. Once we have mastered these skills, we will be testing our gymnastic abilities using our school apparatus.
PSHE	In PSHE this half term, we will be discovering what it takes to be a good friend to others and the qualities we seek in friendships. We will then be discussing our own families and what makes them unique before exploring our own feelings and strategies to resolve conflicts.
Music	This half term, we are exploring pulse by moving our bodies to a beat. We will be selecting and using instruments to find and maintain a steady pulse. Throughout the term we will also be listening and responding to a range of pieces of music.

Reading

This term we will be reading 'After the Storm' by Nick Butterworth.

After the Storm is a lovely story by Nick Butterworth.

When a storm blows down the old oak tree, Percy and his animal friends work together to devise a plan to find new homes.

We are continuing with our whole class reading rewards each half term for children who read at least 3 times per week. We will be sending reading books and home-school diaries home daily in your child's book bag to encourage regular reading at home. Your child will have the opportunity to change their reading books weekly in line with their guided reading sessions.

Don't forget about our library service that is on offer down in the Infant building.

Times Tables Rockstars

Your child will be getting a login for Times Tables Rockstars. Remember to encourage them to practise their times tables with a focus on their 2s, 5s and 10s. We will be setting plenty of challenges on TT Rockstars and might even go head to head against other year groups for the chance to win special prizes in school! Also, look out for our top rockstars on our school newsletter each week. Your child might be mentioned on there! In Year 1 we also use NumBots as a support for our maths curriculum.

If you have any issues with your child's TT Rockstar login, please let your class teacher know as soon as possible. **This is applicable for Year 2 from September 24 and Year Ones from April 26.**

Homework

Children will receive maths homework on a fortnightly basis on our new home learning platform **Doodle**. Each piece of homework will directly link to the learning they have done in class and will be tailored to meet the needs of your child. Please encourage them to work on this independently at home with minimal support, if needed.

Optional Creative Homework

To add to your child's learning experiences, we would like them to create something at home linked to our new topic, 'All Creatures Great and Small!'. This could be in the form of a written task, a piece of art work, a 3D model or an IT based creation such as a PowerPoint, Word document or video.

Below are a few ideas for inspiration:

- Plant some wildflower seeds in your garden to attract wildlife
- Make a bug hotel
- Make a bird box/bird feeder and fill it with seeds
- Go on a natural walk to find signs of Autumn (conkers, leaves, acorns)
- Create a fact file about British wildlife
- Get snugly and watch a nature documentary
- Build a natural den in your garden/local woodland
- Take photographs of local wildlife in your area

