



Reception - Curriculum News

Spring 2025 Topic – Paws, Claws and Whiskers!

This term our topic is '**Paws, Claws and Whiskers!**'. This topic has an Expressive Arts focus and enables children to develop their artistic skills and ideas using a range of expressive and creative processes by exploring the world of domestic and big cats and other animals.

In this topic children will learn about:

- ❖ Animals which are part of the cat family including domestic and big cats
- ❖ Habitats in which they live both in the home and in the wild
- ❖ The body parts of cats and other animals
- ❖ Animal care, including organisations and charities that provide animal welfare
- ❖ How to create 3D forms using modelling materials
- ❖ How to record their ideas and creativity in two- and three-dimensional forms
- ❖ How to sequence movements to sounds and music

Languages, Literacy, and Communication

One of our main emphases will be to continue with the learning and reinforcement of phonemes through Read, Write Inc. daily. During these sessions your children will be encouraged to take care with their presentation and handwriting (letter formation). The children will be learning high frequency words each week and develop a love of mark making and writing for different purposes, during our 'EXTENDED WRITE' sessions.

As your child's reading skills develop, we will be looking to enhance their quality of reading using a wider range of genres. The children are invited to use the writing table in our class through free choice and teacher directed activities, this will have a range of resources and mark making tools on it so the children can experiment and develop their writing skills. Each week your child will focus on a topic-based story and participate in Literacy activities based on this text.

We will be encouraging your child to speak in front of an audience on a regular basis through topical activities and they will be invited to take part in 'Show and Tell' on a half termly basis. This will take place on the **last Thursday and Friday of every half term**. Your child's artefact for 'Show and Tell' should be **carefully chosen** to reflect your child's interests and where possible the current topic.

Welsh

All children from Reception to Year 6 receive a 10 minute oral Welsh session each day aimed to increase fluency and confidence in this language. During this time the children play games and take part in 'hot seat' activities. These sessions are fun, practical and very beneficial.

In addition to these daily sessions the children also have a dedicated Welsh lesson each week. We will also be learning about the culture of Wales and its language. The children will be using incidental Welsh daily such as numbers, colours, rhymes, songs and greetings and also learning a variety of topic related vocabulary relating to animals and Dewi Sant.

The children will be learning how to ask a variety of questions in Welsh. They will be learning how to respond appropriately when asked questions in Welsh and they will be encouraged to use Welsh constantly during their independent learning. Reception will also be learning Welsh Folk dancing and performing this during our Eisteddfod.

International Languages

We will be learning French this term, using greetings, learning to count and colours. Pupils will build on their knowledge and understanding of communication in the world around us.

How you can help: Play Fred Talk Games at home and in the car and around your home. Help teach your child to recognise different sounds. When reading books come home, listen to your child read daily and please write a comment and sign the reading record. Encourage your child to notice letters and print in their environment.

Maths and Numeracy

Numeracy skills will be taught through practical activities and play. In reception we will be learning number formation and how to write numbers using sand, paint and shaving foam.

During maths sessions we will be learning to:

- Count in 1's to 20 and on to 100
- Count on and back in 2s, 5s and 10's
- Estimate a number of objects
- Recall days of the week, months of the year and seasons
- Say the number that is one more and one less
- Count on 1, 2, 3 or 4 from a given number
- Recall addition facts for pairs to 5 and 10; relating addition facts to an understanding of addition
- Recall the names and features of 2d and 3D shapes.
- Develop more complex repeating patterns.
- Through role play we will be learning about money and how to use it in the Vets.
- We will be weighing objects and comparing weights.
- The children will learn how to create, record and interpret Tally charts, pictograms and bar charts through topic work.

We will also be using 'Numicon' - this a resource that enables children to develop their understanding of mathematics by helping them to see connections between numbers by manipulating and making connections using shapes. A key understanding developed through 'Numicon' is that numbers are not just randomly occurring things, but that they form a highly organised system – which is full of many kinds of patterns. For more information about this and tips for how you can help at home visit www.numicon.co.nz

How can you help: — Practise counting forwards to 20 and beyond daily. Practise counting backwards from 10 at first then once this is mastered move on to counting back from 20. Practise counting groups of objects by moving them physically from one space to another, so they are using one to one correspondence, then move on to counting by grouping. Play shops at home using money to pay for items.

RE

Your children will be discovering the world of Christianity through daily worship (assemblies) and through play-based activities within their setting. This term we are going to be exploring 'Jesus', and stories from the New Testament. The children will also be learning about the church year and Epiphany, St. Bridget's Day and St. David's Day. They will take part in a special Mothering Sunday Service.

As a Church in Wales School your child will also take part in Virtual whole school daily worships and weekly Religious Education sessions.

This terms Gospel Value is **Forgiveness**, and we will be exploring stories from the Bible that demonstrate this.

Health and Well Being

The children will discover how to look after themselves in terms of healthy eating and hygiene.

Our role play areas will be a focus for social skill development and the children will be playing together interactively through a range of activities. The children will develop their ability to share with their peers further and they will also develop their friendships whilst working in their learning environment.

We will be using the Jigsaw PSHE scheme to explore the theme of Celebrating Differences. The sessions this term will be:

- What am I good at?
- I'm special, I'm me
- Families
- Houses and homes
- Making friends
- Standing up for yourself

We will be finding out about animal welfare charities, making leaflets and posters. We will also talk about why cats might be in an animal shelter. Our visit from a vet will involve ways in which we can keep safe around animals, including rules about petting, feeding, handling and cleaning.

Our P.E. day is on **Wednesday** and we sometimes have a session with Mr Nurton on a **Thursday or Friday**. It is very important that every pupil takes part in as much PE as possible. It is therefore important that they have the correct kit with them. Pupils will need to ensure they have warm P.E. kit that can be used outdoors.

Science and Technology

This term we will be learning to take photographs using an iPad and store them on our online learning portfolio 'Seesaw'. We will also be using Chatterpix and PicCollage throughout the term to develop our digital competency.

The children will be learning about a cat's body and labelling body parts. They will also discover the role of a vet and what their job involves when a vet visits our class. Our role play area will be a veterinary surgery where there will be opportunities to 'examine' and care for animals.

The children will also begin to understand that we all have different preferences. We will be finding out our likes and dislikes.

Humanities and Expressive Arts

The children will be learning through practical activities and discovering where different cats and other animals come from. We will explore world maps and use the Internet to find out about where different animals originate from.

Reception will be taking part in Welsh folk dancing. During dance they will be learning about rhythm and traditional dance steps. They will also be developing control of their bodies and good body tension. This term we will be singing and performing (using actions) a range of songs, dances and rhymes linked to our topics and Welsh culture.

Every day the children will have the opportunity to take part in a creative activity, whether it is drawing, painting, making, colouring or singing. The children will explore a variety of tuned and un-tuned Fairtrade instruments in group activities.

We will be making a clay model of a cat and we will explore the work of Henri Rousseau to inspire our cat paintings. The children will be using a variety of media such as chalks, pastels, paint and collage materials.

As always if there is anything you are unclear about or if you have any concerns or queries at all please don't hesitate to approach us, we are always happy to help.

Please note that this term £15 for fresh fruit should be paid via ParentPay as soon as possible.















Best Wishes,

Mrs C Chapman

Further ways to help your child:

- Please ensure your children have warm school P.E. kit every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- Please return reading folders every **Monday**, these will be returned as soon as possible.
- **Encourage your children to reinforce their sounds daily**
- Please ensure your children have appropriate weatherproof clothing including hat, scarf and gloves which are clearly marked with their names as they will be engaging in the outdoors every day.
- Please ensure all of your children's uniform is clearly marked with their names.
- Please ensure your children have a healthy snack for morning play time if you are not paying for the school fruit and also a water bottle . As we are a healthy school, **we do not allow chocolate, crisps or biscuits to be consumed at break times in school and no nuts please.** Drink bottles and snack boxes should be clearly labelled.
- Please check your children have their red bag with them every day and check its contents on a daily basis for correspondence from school.
- If your children are away from school at any time, please inform the school as soon as possible **and provide a letter stating the reason.** If we do not receive a letter we will have to mark your children with an unauthorised absence. Holidays within term time are unauthorised absences and a holiday request form should be completed prior to the children's absence. These can be obtained from Mrs Willow's Office.

A reminder for your fridge:

Things to bring to school:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Outdoor clothing i.e. Coat, hat, waterproofs					
P.E. kit					
Reading folder					
Red bag					
Healthy snack and water bottle clearly labelled	