



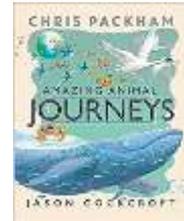
Woodland Department Newsletter

20th April 2018



Our department topic for the summer term is 'Animals'. We are hoping to arrange for a farm to visit us at school later in the term.

On Thursday 24th May you will be invited into school in the afternoon to join us for our 'Sensory Rock, Roll and Ride' which will be a walk around the school grounds, with lots of opportunities for sensory exploration. This event will happen during the afternoon, probably at 1.30pm. Further information to follow.



The Den Class

The Den Class will be making collages using different coloured materials to represent animals and their journeys. This will be based on a book called 'The Amazing Animal Journeys' by Chris Packham. Music sessions will also be inspired by this, and Audrey is hoping to include journeys around the school grounds.

The Den Class will be involved in a project called 'Sound Futures' this term, which will focus on music and transition. A letter has been sent home about this to the pupils who are involved.

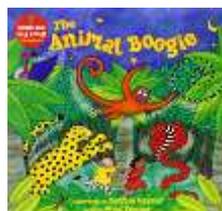


Forest Class

Forest Class will be basing their sensory story on "Handa's Surprise" by Eileen Browne. In this story different animals take different pieces of fruit from Handa's basket. Art activities will link to the story and pupils will have the opportunity to make animal masks. Fruit will be explored during messy play activities and also during tasting sessions.

Orchard Class

Orchard Class will be basing their sensory story and ComMUSICation sessions on 'The Animal Boogie' story by Debbie Harter. We have some vibrating, giggling money toys for the pupils to explore, water snakes and a parachute with birds attached. Art sessions will focus on art projects linked to animals, like hand and footprint animals and paper plate jellyfish.



Meadow Class

Some pupils will be joining in with a sensory story based on Julia Donaldson's 'Squash and a Squeeze', and others will take part in an interactive sing-along about animals. Fun animal songs will be incorporated into ComMUSICation sessions and the pupils will experience big 'elephant footsteps' on the resonance boards and also light 'chicken footsteps'!



18 members of the Woodland Department staff team have just completed the last 2 days of the 5 day Intervenor Course run by SENSE. This course is for people who work with pupils who have sensory impairments. We have learnt lots of really helpful information and believe that this will benefit all of our pupils, not only the ones who have a sensory impairment. There were already 3 trained intervenors within the department, so there are now 21 of us! Staff members gave up some Saturdays to attend the course. It is great to have such a dedicated team.

Staff will be receiving Grid 3 training this half term. Grid 3 is a programme we now have on our Eye-Gaze computers. I understand that this software is good for supporting the pupils to make choices. Jane and I are looking forward to attending a Sensory Story Massage Course.

Please send a named sunhat into school. We make sure that pupils don't sit in the sunshine for too long. You are welcome to provide us with sun cream to apply in school.

Let's hope the lovely weather continues for a fun packed summer term!

Best wishes,

Amanda Brown

(Woodland Department Leader)

