

Literacy

Our class book for the next half-term will be *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen. We will be making story maps, orally retelling the plot, sequencing events and hot-seating characters, so that we know the story really well. We will develop our use of language to describe key scenes, and will then adapt our story maps to create our own stories, which we will begin to tell and write independently. We will also be exploring animal poems and books about bears!

Expressive Arts and Design

We will be creating dance and music linked to our class story, exploring percussion instruments and creating our own guitars, drums and rain sticks. We will have new cave and house role play areas to explore and will also be painting different types of bears. As always, we will be encouraged to talk about our art, the choices we make and the effects we create.

Physical Development

In our PE sessions we will be developing our running and coordination, as well as learning the rules of some simple events, getting ready for our exciting Sports Day.

In class, we will be tackling obstacle courses as we complete our bear hunts (going through the forest, over rivers and around muddy puddles). We will also continue to develop our fine motor skills through daily activities and challenges.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will spend lots of time talking about our transition into Reception and Year 1 over the next half-term, so that we are ready for the changes when we move up. We will be meeting our new teachers, and getting to know our new classrooms and learning spaces, as well as talking about our emotions.

Next half-term, we'll be learning about...

WE'RE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT

EARLY YEARS - SUMMER 2023



Communication and Language

This term we will be spending lots of time discussing our learning and getting ready to move up to our new class in September. We will be encouraged to talk to our new teachers about our hobbies and interests, and to tell them as much as we can about what we have learnt and enjoyed doing this year. We will be listening to a range of animal stories as well as reading and acting out our core story, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, using puppets and story sacks - and this, in turn, will introduce us to lots of new vocabulary, using words like *squelch*, *stumble*, *trip*, *squishy* and *squashy*.

Mathematics

As we continue with our *Essentials for Counting* programme, we will be developing our use of positional language, such as *across*, *over*, *under* and *around*. Nursery will also be focusing on securing their counting to 10, using the words 'more' and 'less' and developing the skill of subitising (instantly recognising how many there are in a small group without needing to count, for example with the spots on dice).

Reception, meanwhile, will be working regrouping numbers in different ways, both splitting numbers up (for instance into 'ten and some more') and combining parts to find the total.

Understanding the world

Linked to our story, we will be learning about different types of bears and their habitats. We will explore the different places that these creatures come from, using globes and maps to identify these places, and will think about the differences between these habitats - from the icy Arctic home of polar bears to the forests where brown bears live. We will also be using maps to look at the countries where members of our class (and their parents) were born, including Nigeria, Romania, Poland, Ghana, Pakistan, Afghanistan and India. Finally, as we hunt for our bear, we will investigate different types of footprints made by different animals.

Literacy

- Constant practice of reading and phonics is just about the most valuable thing you can do at home. Try to read with your child as often as possible and talk to them about what they've read.
- We follow the Read Write Inc phonics programme, and they have guidance on supporting your child at home: www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/

Expressive Arts and Design

- Sing and dance together - find music you all enjoy and talk about how it makes you feel.
- Draw, paint or collage illustrations for favourite books and stories.
- Talk about what your child has made at school and encourage them to describe the way they made it to you.

Physical Development

- Go on your own bear hunt in the park or garden. What obstacles do you encounter along the way? Can you reach your goal by climbing (carefully) over benches, crawling under blankets or clambering through cardboard boxes?
- Encourage your child to get dressed on their own and brush their teeth twice a day.
- Play games together that involve kicking, throwing and catching balls.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Support your child in building their imagination and storytelling, building things using big cardboard boxes and pieces of fabric, or dressing up and pretending to be nurse, doctors or parents.
- Talk to your child about how to stay safe when crossing the road or playing in the park.



Ideas for supporting learning at home:

WE'RE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT

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Mathematics

- We've been practicing our counting a lot in class, so building on this at home would be a huge help - you could count houses on the way to School, footsteps on the way to bed, shoes in the house, players on the team, objects in the shopping trolley, claps, nods... Anything and everything you can think of!
- Practice writing numbers in sand, salt or water, or try making numbers out of groups of pebbles.
- Play board games with numbered squares together, and practice saying the names of the squares you land on together. Simple card games give lots of opportunities for practicing number names, too.

Understanding the world

- Find out more about bears! What do they eat? Where do they live? Are they friendly or dangerous? What sort of homes do they live in? Can you draw pictures or write a sentence to show what you find out?
- Look for clues in your garden or local environment that show what kinds of animals have been visiting - can you spot footprints, bite marks or trails left by creatures that visit when you're not around?
- Use or globes to find countries around the world that are special or significant to you and your family - they might be places you've been on holiday, places where family members live or places where people you know are born.

Communication and Language

- We will continue to use Tapestry to share work that we have done in school and share ideas for learning beyond school. You can log in, view work and add comments and pictures at eylj.org. Speak to a member of staff if you're not sure about how to log in.
- Make up silly sentences together where every word has to start with the same letter or the words all rhyme.
- When you're sharing stories with your child, ask them what they think will happen next or how the story might end.