

UNDER THE SEA

The Big Idea

In this topic our learning will be set within the theme of under the sea. Our inside role play area will be transformed into an aquarium, complete with ticket office and till. Our outside role play area will become a seascape, where the children can imagine they are in the ocean blue, and they will be constructing submarines to journey under the sea.

We will explore all the different types of creatures who live in our oceans, and find out about their various characteristics. We will help the children make connections between these creatures, themselves and the wider world. For example, did you know that scientists believe that, like humans, lobsters are either left or right handed? Or that jellyfish have been on earth for millions of years, even before dinosaurs? Prepare yourselves for an ocean extravaganza!

Understanding of the World

The children in Barn Owls will take part in topic related activities. These will include

- Finding out which materials sink and float in water.
- Playing "Describe it and Find It Activity" using under the sea photographs.
- Using computer programmes such as 2 simple to extend learning.

The children will also have lots of opportunities to initiate their own learning, selecting from the class resources and will be encouraged to 'plan, do and review' their activities.

Expressive arts and design

All of our activities will encourage the children to explore and use different media and materials and be imaginative.

Activities planned include

- CD rainbow fish
- Felt sea creatures craft
- Paper plate crab
- Sea creatures wax resist drawings
- Handprint mermaid craft



Outdoor Learning



In outdoor learning we will continue to observe the features of the changing seasons. We will learn about animal habitats through making bug hotels and hedgehog homes.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be helping the children to play co-operatively and take turns with others. We will encourage them to show sensitivity to others' needs and feelings, and to form positive relationships with adults and other children.

R.E

In November our focus will be “why do we have celebrations?” We will focus on how Christian festivals can help us to understand festivals from other faiths. In December our focus will be “who travelled to Bethlehem?” The children will learn about the key people in the Christmas story. They will also learn that Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus, and that Christmas is a special time for Christians.

Music

In music we will continue to learn lots of fun songs. Some of these songs will help us to learn our phonics and numbers. We will play simple percussion instruments and learn their different names and how they make a sound.

Trips and Events

- Remembrance Service
- Children in Need Day
- Christmas nativity play



Physical Development

We will be helping the children develop good control and co-ordination in large and small movements. In **gymnastics** the children will be learning to:

- Travel and balance with control.
- Hold stretched or curled shapes.
- Show an awareness of contrasts in level.
- Link movements together.
- Adapt and transfer work safely from the floor to the apparatus.

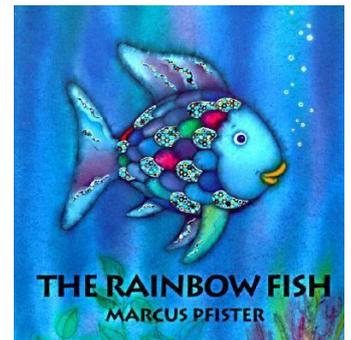
Music and Movement

We will be encouraging the children to move confidently in a range of ways, safely negotiating space. In **music and movement** the children will be learning to:

- Explore movements within our topic theme. For example they will be challenged to move in a range of ways in an Under the Sea Movement Game, such as slithering, shuffling, rolling and hopping.
- Put their movements to music, and show changes in speed and shape according to the music.

English

- In phonics the Barn Owls will continue to learn the letters of the alphabet, and some double letter blends e.g. ck (clock, sock) and ss (hiss, miss). They will learn to blend sounds to read words and practise recognising some words instantly e.g. 'to'. They will also learn to sound words out to spell them.
- We will continue using our alphabet books to link our learning of the sounds and formation of letters, and we do the appropriate letter each time we learn a new sound.
- We will read a rich variety of stories and texts, many relating to our topic, such as Commotion in the Ocean. We will read and explore the rhyming texts of Tiddler and The Snail and the Whale, by Julia Donaldson.
- The Rainbow Fish will offer us the chance to explore a range of feelings, including feeling lonely and feeling included by others. Sharing is at the heart of this magical story, and we will use it in our PSHE and art work.
- We will read the traditional story of Little Red Riding Hood, and learn to re-tell it using Pie Corbett “Talk for Writing” actions. By internalising the story and adding actions, the story becomes firmly embedded and is a rich source of storytelling language which the children can draw on when they are able to start writing sentences and stories for themselves.



Maths

- In **number**, the Barn Owls will match spoken and written numbers. We will practise counting out the correct number of objects to match the corresponding number, and will repeat this activity in a variety of ways, eg choosing the number card 9 and counting out the correct number of cheerios and threading them onto a pipe cleaner. The children will learn to place the numbers in order from 1-10, and some will progress onto ordering numbers from 1-20.
- In **shape, space and measure** the children will learn in practical contexts and will weigh and measure, developing mathematical vocabulary. We will learn the properties and names of 2D

shapes, and use these to make sea creature shape models. We will use coins to enter the classroom aquarium, and the children will begin to identify different coins and their value. We will talk about time, and make numicon clocks.

Class Routines:

Reading

- You and the children are doing brilliantly with both the reading and with filling in the reading diaries. Thank you!

Phonics

The letters we are learning over the next four weeks are as follows;

- **w/c October 30th; letters d, e and r.**
- **w/c November 6th letters h, b and f.**
- **w/c November 13th letters l, u and ck.**
- **w/c November 20th letters ll, ss and ff.**

P.E. LESSONS:

- The children need to have their P.E. kit in school each day and we will send it home fortnightly on a Friday so that it can be washed and returned on Monday.
- Jewellery must be removed so if your child has their ears pierced they will need a small pot in their bag to put their earrings in to keep them safe.
- Long hair should be tied back for school, but it must be tied back for P.E. lessons so a spare hair band is a good idea.

Wow!

COMMUNICATION:

- I will always be available at the end of school if you would like to speak to me, and if you need to see me in the morning, ask to pop along to the classroom.
- We would love to hear of our Barn Owls' achievements at home, so please do fill in WOW slips which we can add into their learning journeys.
- If you need more slips, please ask and we will provide. Thank you!

