

## Physical Development

A range of activities, including dough disco will be used to develop the children's fine motor control. They will be encouraged to hold their pencil correctly/effectively. During our PE sessions with Mrs Haines, we will continue to work on becoming independent with dressing and undressing. Our lessons will focus on developing overall body strength, co-ordination and agility whilst learning to express themselves creatively through movement. Linking with work from other areas, the children will think about ways of staying healthy and incorporate exercise and healthy eating into our routine.

## Mathematics – Number, Shape, Space and Measure

Throughout this term, we will continue to develop the children's ability to count, recognise, order and write numbers 0-10 and beyond. They will also estimate quantities. They will continue to use language of addition and subtraction through practical activities and discussion and will explore the concepts of 1 more and 1 less. The children will begin to learn about money, time and measure including capacity. There will be endless opportunities in our maths area as well as using our water play and messy play to explore mathematics creatively.

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children will develop their friendships through playing together, sharing and taking turns. They will explore what being a good friend means through our topic stories. The children will also explore the feelings of characters in the stories and will use this as a starting point for discussing their own feelings in different situations. We will continue to follow the Jigsaw PSHE and mindfulness programme. The children will begin to learn about the different zones of regulation.

## Communication and Language

There will be continued emphasis on listening to stories and sharing both fiction and non-fiction books. The children will continue to retell, change and make up their own stories using puppets; props and costumes (Talk for Writing and Talk for Reading). Topic work will be used to introduce new vocabulary and develop the children's questioning skills.

## Reception Class Autumn 2025 'Amazing Africa'

**Our topic this term is 'Amazing Africa'. We are going to take a journey through Africa using stories such as 'Handa's Surprise' and 'We're going on a Lion Hunt'. As well as completing activities focused on the Country of Kenya and traditional Africa, we will also explore the diversity of this amazing continent. The children's interests will continue to shape the direction our learning takes within this topic.**

## Expressive Art and Design

The children will draw, paint and create collages of African scenes and animals. They will explore and create patterns seen on animals - camouflage and African fabric print and artwork. They will use play dough and clay to make 3D models. As a class we will use percussion instruments to make sounds to represent different safari animals and then explore how can move like the animals. They will listen to African drumming and explore our thoughts, feelings and ways it makes us want to express ourselves. They will also learn several African songs and will make drums/shakers to accompany their singing.

## Understanding the World

The children will explore changes in our weather and seasons, focusing on winter and how we and animals adapt to the changes during this season. We will then travel to Africa. Our investigations will focus on how environments vary from one to another, looking at maps and photographs to find out about how people live in a village in Kenya. We will discover more about the climate, the animals that would be found there and make comparisons with our life in Hereford. This will link to our 'Harmony' theme of 'Cycles'. The children will learn about animal life cycles, investigate different animal's footprints and look at the different patterns found naturally in nature.

## Literacy – Reading and Writing

Daily sharing and reading of quality story books such as 'We're going on a lion hunt', 'Handa's Surprise', 'Anansi the Spider', and 'Six Dinner Sid'. Our daily phonics sessions will continue, following the Floppy's Phonics programme. The children will be encouraged to give meaning to their mark making; using their phonic skills, if able, to segment and write cvc words. They will have the opportunity to write for different purposes e.g. Lists (animals they spot on safari; clothes they need to pack); simple sentences to describe jungle animals - what am I?

## How you can help

Please share books and stories regularly and ask your child questions about what you have read using the Reading Gems in their diary. Help your child learn their sounds and tricky words. Practise tracing or writing their name, showing them the correct letter formation. Help your child learn to count, recognise and order numbers to 10 and beyond.

Thank you for your support,  
Mrs Welsh.