

## YEAR ONE TOPIC LETTER

16<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Dear Parents,

We hope you have had a lovely Easter holiday and had fun together as a family! This half-term our topic is **'Wonderful Wildlife,'** which allows the children to develop skills in classifying a variety of animals, according to their particular features. We will also be finding out about the plight of hedgehogs in the UK and finding out how we can help to protect their habitat.

### Week 1: **Perfect Pets**

We will be starting our topic considering pets that we have at home and pets we would particularly like. The children will have opportunities to find out and discuss the needs of pets as well as begin to understand some of the responsibilities that come with ownership. If your child has a photograph of a pet and would like to share it with the rest of the class, we would love to see it too! If anyone has a well behaved, child friendly pet that they would be willing to bring to school for a visit please talk to your child's class teacher as soon as possible. **Please let your child's class teacher know if they have any animal allergies.**



### Week 2: **Hedgehogs**

As conservationists we will be thinking about the plight of hedgehogs in the UK and how we can help to improve their habitat. We will be creating our own hedgehogs using clay.



### Week 3: **Mammals**



As scientists we will be classifying a range of animals that are mammals and finding out the reasons they are in this animal group. We shall also begin to think about what it means to be a vertebrate and look at some skeletons of mammals.

### Week 4/5: **Reptiles, Amphibians and Fish**

This week we shall be thinking about the features of reptiles, amphibians and fish. We shall be talking about their similarities and differences and the types of habitat common to these animal groups. We shall be finding out about the life-cycle of turtles and discussing some of the ecological problems these animals are facing.



### Week 6/7: **Minibeasts, Insects and birds.**

As entomologists we shall be on a quest to find out about a range of minibeasts within our local environment! We shall be considering the features of insects and their purpose within the ecosystem. We shall be asking questions such as where do different types of minibeasts prefer to live and why? We will find out about the different types of birds we might see in our local environment as well as learning about not disturbing nests or fledglings.



# Bramble Infant School & Nursery

Headteacher: Mr Oliver Bradley  
Nursery Manager: Mrs Mindy Butler  
Bramble Road, Southsea, PO4 0DT

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Events also happening this half term, further details to follow:

- Visit to Southsea Castle and the Rock Gardens (postponed from last half term)
- Visit to Queen Elizabeth Country Park to find out about animals, plants and habitats in our local environment
- Visit from ZooLab for a minibeast workshop

## How you can help!

- If you have an animal which might fit into one of our animal groups we would love to see them although we would ask that you discuss with the class teacher first to arrange a date and time!
- Similarly, if you or someone you know is an authority on a particular type of animal, we would love to have them to come into school and share their experiences with the children!
- Please take the time to research different animals whether on the internet, at the library, at the zoo etc.
- Make a fact file about a particular type of animal including facts about which type of animal it is. E.g. Mammal, reptile, amphibian, insect, bird etc. Find out whether your animal is a vertebrate or non-vertebrate. Does it lay eggs or give birth to live young? Does it have wings? Does it have fur, feathers or scales?
- Make models and collages together of particular animals your child is interested in. Can your child label important parts of the animal's body that helps us classify which animal group it is in?
- Find out about Wildlife hospitals or pet rescue organisations. What do they do? How do they help?
- Look out for birds in your garden by making tasty treats, create a 'bug hotel' or even create a wildlife garden that will help attract different types of animals!
- Visit different types of habitats with your child and talk about the different types of wildlife you might see. E.g. woodland, wetland, heathland, beach, hedgerow etc.

We are really looking forward to this topic and know the children will be really excited about it! Please continue to encourage them in their learning over the next few weeks and months! We are so pleased with how they have progressed both personally and academically this year and look forward to working together with you to make their school journey a really happy one!

Year One Team

Mrs Bev Brown

Mrs Sarah Mayell-Thomas

Year One Lead/Maple Class Teacher

Beech Class Teacher



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