

The Dark and Woodland Animals

Year R EYFS

Autumn

Project Overview

We begin this topic learning about woodland creatures with a focus on nocturnal animals, their habitats and hibernation. We will use our welly walks to look at seasonal changes, including a visit to Green's Wood and Marshes Meadows to make dens for our toilet roll woodland animals. In the second part to the topic we look at Bonfire Night and keeping safe around fireworks. If Armistice Day falls within this topic we will visit the Swanmore War Memorial and learn about the important role the forces have played in the past and in the present. We will begin to introduce our daily maths lessons with a focus on strategies for accurate counting. We have daily phonics teaching which includes learning letter sounds, how to form each letter, blending to read and segmenting to write.

Communication & Language Listening, Attention & Understanding Speaking

- Listening to stories and non-fiction book about woodland animals.
- Discussing different woodland animals, sharing experiences and asking questions.
- Discussions with peers while creating firework pictures.
- Enhanced Provision: Role Play - Dark tent - creating own stories, Small World Woodland scene. Working with friends to create dens. Puppet theatre with woodland creatures.

Understanding the World Past & Present People, Culture & Communities The Natural World

- Looking at woodland animals images, making observations, looking at similarities and differences and sorting by a criteria.
- Looking at the torches in the dark tent, discussing light and dark.
- Finding out about animal habitats through powerpoints and non-fiction books to inform the animal homes they will be making in Green's Wood.
- Looking for Autumn changes during welly walks.– longitudinal study
- Learning about animal hibernation and nocturnal animals.
- Learning the names of some native trees seen in school grounds and Greens Wood
- Visit Greens Wood and Marshes meadow and explore the natural world
- Briefly looking at Guy Fawkes in relation to Bonfire Night.

RE

- Remembrance Sunday: Discussing forces and their role in the past and today. Watching the Royal British Legion DVD. Creating poppy wreaths to lay at the Swanmore War Memorial. Discussing Eleanor Dlugosz, a former Swanmore pupil who died in service.

Computing

- Continue to develop IWB and computer skills.

Personal Social Emotional Development Self-regulation Managing self Building Relationships

- Learning about and following safety rules when visiting Green's Wood.
- Trickbox – Read Drew feels good and teach yellow trick
- Meeting school 'Fun Partners' - The children get paired with a pupil from a junior class, we then have monthly 'meet ups' where the children read together.
- Discussing Bonfire Night safety rules.
- Perform a Woodland Animal dance to an audience.

Maths Number & Numerical patterns

- Learning strategies for accurate counting.
- Developing children's accurate counting, working within 0-5, 5-10, 10-15 or 15-20 depending on ability by using natural objects to create animal homes e.g. the hedgehog needs 5 sticks and 8 conkers.
- Counting round the circle (holding up number cards) and counting the number of lunchboxes during register time.
- Watching number time and numberblocks introducing all numbers to 10, counting out objects to represent each number. Learning number formation.
- Number recognition interventions if needed 0-5, then to 10.

Literacy Comprehension Word Reading & Writing

- Looking at and discussing non-fiction and fiction books on woodland animals as a class e.g. owl babies, the owl who was afraid of the dark.
- Finding out about habitats and hibernation to gain knowledge from a class read or story time.
- Phonics lessons on phonemes - see phonics info in reading diaries for more information. Don't forget to pick up the daily phonics sheets.
- Name writing - developing pencil grip and control, correct letter formation .
- Guided Reading sessions using pictures to tell stories in their own words.
- Visit the library and scan out books to take home.

Physical Development Gross Motor Skills Fine Motor Skills

- Developing pencil grip, control, pressure and letter formation through name writing and handwriting in phonics lessons. Those needing extra support will work on fine motor books.
- Fine motor intervention groups begin.
- The children make a woodland animal dance by recreating the movements of animals with their own bodies.
- Enhanced Provision: Funky fingers - Feeding the owls with 'worms' using tweezers. Building dens outside. Manipulating the playdough into animals.

PE

- Changing into PE kits with increasing independence.
- Woodland Animal Dance—Moving creatively in different ways, exploring different body movements, recreating animal movements.

Expressive Arts and design Creating with Materials Being Imaginative & Expressive

- Making a woodland creature by selecting and joining materials such as toilet roll tubes, buttons, paint, felt etc.
- Creating a den in Greens Wood for their woodland craft creature by selecting and combining natural resources.
- Thinking about and recreating the movements of woodland creatures for a woodland animal dance.
- Using oil pastels to draw firework images onto black paper. The children work in pairs to create their art on large pieces on paper while listening to music.
- Enhanced Provision: Making 3D pictures with natural resources. Making woodland animals in playdough. Making dens outside. Making playdough animals, googly eyes, wooden sticks with spikes etc. Painting logs outside. Mud kitchen - food for animals. Puppet theatre with woodland creatures. Painting pictures of animals.

Music

- For their woodland animal dance the children listen to and move to the music.
- Singing – Crunching through the leaves and Wear a poppy today.