

Summer Little Herons Newsletter - 2026



Welcome to the new term!

We hope you had a lovely Easter. We are very excited to begin the Summer Term and have lots of exciting learning opportunities planned for the children.

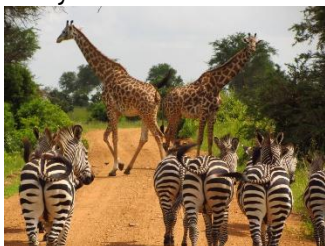
Knowledge and understanding of the world

Topics:

Summer 1

Animal Safari

In the Animal Safari topic, your child will explore animals and the natural world. They will be introduced to a range of animals and begin to understand how living things grow, adapt and survive. The topic will also incorporate a focus on different countries, supporting children to recognise that animals live in many locations across the world and how much their environments differ to ours. For our younger children, learning will be centred around introducing animal names and sounds using stories, songs and sensory tuff trays. We are also having a visit from 'Thor' the Tortoise which we are very excited about!



Summer 2

On the Beach

Our 'On the Beach' theme will give the children an opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the beach. This will include sand, sea and marine life. They will begin to explore concepts such as floating and sinking, tides, weather and the animals that live on the land and in the sea. We will also be discussing respect for the environment and how we can look after our beaches. For our younger children learning will focus on sensory exploration through use of water, sand, pebbles and shells. Alongside this we will introduce new vocabulary through stories, sounds and songs.

Library Books

Many of our children are enjoying borrowing stories from our school library and love to go and choose a book. If your child brings a library book home, we would love you to read it with them before returning it back to us the following session.

"The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you'll go."
-Dr. Seuss

Areas of Learning including:

Phonics: We will be delivering daily phonics sessions for our school leavers. If you would like to continue this at home please watch this video that shows how we say each 'pure' sound.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUbrJPAt65g>

Many of our younger children show a keen interest in joining these sessions and are always encouraged to participate if they wish.

Expressive Arts and Design: The children will be encouraged to use drawing as a means of representing their ideas and experiences linked to our topics. They will have opportunities to experiment with a range of materials and tools to develop their creativity and practice their fine motor skills. They will explore malleable materials such as playdough, sand, water, and gloop to create their own representations. Our younger children will begin to make purposeful marks allowing them to begin learning about cause and effect. They will also enjoy malleable and sensory experiences alongside the older children.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED): Children will learn more about themselves and others. We will be helping them to recognise and talk about their feelings, using words such as happy, sad, angry and worried to express how they feel. We will be encouraging a desire to be independent, try things for themselves and take pride in their achievements. We will help them to understand the importance of making healthy choices such as eating well and staying active. The younger children will be supported to make strong attachments to help them feel confident in their surroundings. They will express their feelings through sound and gesture gradually learning simple words such as happy and sad. Early self-care skills will be encouraged through routines such as washing hands and trying different foods.

School Trip

We are in the process of planning a nursery trip for the school leavers later in the summer term, watch this space!



Moving On

During the summer term the children who will be leaving us to go to minnow class (reception) in September will be spending time with Mrs Taylor and transitioning to 'big school'. Reception class is a big but exciting transition, and we will be on hand to help support them during this important stage in their future learning journey.

Literacy: Books linked to our topic this term includes,

- Walking through the Jungle
- Billy's bucket
- Commotion in the Ocean'
- Little Red and the very Hungry Lion
- One is a Snail, 10 is a Crab

Maths: Our children will develop their early number and problem-solving skills. We will be focusing on subitising to recognise quantities without counting, as well as identifying and ordering numbers to ten. Children will explore simple patterns, use positional language and develop an understanding of measurements by matching and comparing. For our younger children these concepts will be introduced through number songs, routines and repetition. They will investigate space and position through using language such as 'On' and 'Under' and compare objects that are 'Big and 'Small'

Suncream

As the weather warms up, we will be supporting children to stay safe in the sun throughout the day. We will be using a nursery provided sun cream (brand to be confirmed, we will let you know)

If you prefer to supply your own sun cream, please let us know and ensure it is clearly labelled in your child's bag. We also kindly ask that all children bring a named sun hat to nursery to wear during outdoor play.



Outside Area

As you may have noticed we have had lots of things happening in our garden this year. We now have a dedicated baby area space outside which our youngest children are thriving in. We have also created a sand pit and construction area at the bottom of the garden and very kindly had a shed donated by a parent to store our bikes. In the forest school area, we have a new sunshade, which was also donated and a brand-new mud kitchen. Miss Louise has been working extremely hard getting the area ready for the children to use and has also been clearing the pond area at the back of the school so that we can do some pond dipping and other activities. We have some caterpillars again this year and are looking forward to watching them grow and emerge as butterflies. Our children had great fun coming up with some wonderful names for them!

Physical development

As we enter the summer term we will be focusing on self-care and independence. We will be encouraging our children to become confident in skills such as dressing, washing their hands, using cutlery and pouring their own drinks.



We will also continue to focus on fine motor skills during our continuous provision and helping the children to develop a comfortable and effective pencil grip, this supports early writing skills. It is common to see a clear preference for a dominant hand emerging which helps to gain consistency and confidence when using one handed tools and equipment such as scissors.



Our younger children will be focusing on building strength and control through movements such as rolling, sitting, crawling and walking. We will develop fine motor skills through grasping, banging and transferring toys from hand to hand to lay the foundation for later tool use.

Let's talk!

If you have anything you would like to discuss with us, please do not hesitate to speak to us at drop off or pick up; a meeting can be arranged if necessary. Or you can message any member of the team on Family.