



Reception Team Letter
Summer 2026 – Habitats & Fantasy



Dear Parents,

Wow... summer term already! I hope you all had a good break.

Our first topic of the term is 'Habitats'. The children will be looking at similarities and differences between habitats from around the world and how animals adapt to them.

In the second half term, we will move on to our next topic – 'Fantasy'. During this time, children will be encouraged to use their imagination to design and draw their own mystical beasts and create large-scale models.

The children always love taking part in lots of outdoor activities. As the weather is hopefully going to get warmer, please ensure your child has a water bottle, with a sun hat and sunscreen applied as necessary. We will also be outside for some of our PE sessions, so please make sure your child has pumps or trainers.

Next week will be the first of our two trips. Please bring your child to school promptly on these days. No book bag is needed on either day. A gentle reminder that if we have not received permission, your child will remain at school.

Finally, please help us by re-naming all your child's belongings once again. We do not encourage rucksacks in school due to limited shared space, and we would like all children to drink water from their water bottles.

Miss Coughlin & Foundation Stage team

Key Dates this term:

Tuesday 21st April	Class trip to Ella's Farm
Tuesday 28th April	Class trip to Pizza Express
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 5th May	Parents invited to read with their child 2.40pm
Thursday 7th May	Polling Day
Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May	Half Term
Monday 1st June	Pupils return
Wednesday 24th June	Transition Day
Friday 26th June	INSET DAY
Friday 3rd July	Sports Day & Family Picnic
Friday 10th July	Reports Out
Thursday 16th July	Fun Day
Tuesday 21st July	End of Term 2pm finish
Wednesday 22nd July	INSET Day

Please see attendance guide on the final page.

During the Summer term, pupils will be learning the following:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The first half term we will be focusing on 'Relationships'. They will discuss friendships, how to make different friends and how to solve conflict when it arises. The children will discuss how to make others feel part of the group, how to show respect and what to do when they feel left out.

The second half term we will be focusing on 'Changing Me'. The children will focus on understanding that everyone is unique, how to express different feelings when change happens and knowing how to ask for help if they are worried. They will also begin to understand and respect the changes that they see in themselves and in others, and prepare for their transition into Year 1.

Communication and Language

Pupils will work with their talk partners, taking turns in conversation and rehearsing what they would like to say. Pupils will listen to others in their play, developing their understanding of new vocabulary and stories linked to the topic, before beginning to use new vocabulary in their play. Adults will support and extend pupils' language development.

Physical Development

Pupils will begin the first half term learning to cooperate and solve problems in sports. They will learn to move more confidently and cooperatively in space, travel in a range of ways and perform actions such as jumping and rolling.

In the second half term, the children will use the physical skills they have learnt to take part in Sports Day. They will learn to play together as part of a team and will begin to understand the importance of working together, listening to each other's ideas as well as sharing their own.

Pupils will develop their fine motor skills, especially in writing, where they will use a pencil confidently to write letters that can be clearly recognised and form some capital letters correctly.

We will be writing sentences using key words: the, my, I, to.

Literacy

Pupils will take part in daily phonics using the Read Write Inc. approach. During these sessions, we will focus on linking sounds to letters, segmenting, blending and letter formation. The children will also be writing words linked to the sounds they are learning and writing simple sentences. Through child-initiated activities, they will have the opportunity to put this into practice by writing lists, stories and letters/postcards.

Mathematics

Children will learn to build numbers beyond 20 and recognise patterns in numbers beyond 20. They will solve addition and subtraction problems and will learn to share and group objects into equal sets. They will continue to explore shapes and deepen their spatial reasoning.

Understanding of the World

Pupils will identify and sort different animals into habitats and begin to explain how they adapt to their habitat. They will also identify different minibeasts while taking part in a minibeast hunt around school and the local area.

They will also carry out a range of scientific investigations and make predictions about what they think will happen. They will create different fantasy settings, compare these to real-life settings and reflect on their school year.

Expressive Arts and Design

Pupils will use paint to generate different textures and use a variety of materials to create pictures of animals and their habitats. They will be able to talk about why they have chosen certain colours and what happens when two colours are mixed together.

They will combine different materials using a range of joining techniques to make a large-scale class mythical beast. They will also learn to sing nursery rhymes and action songs, and then find and move to the pulse of music. They will learn to play the glockenspiel within different songs.

Attendance Guide for Parents/Carers

What YOU must do:

Try to telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence.

Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.

If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.

Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.

If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

Check your child's attendance every day.

Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.

Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.

If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.