



Foundation Stage Topic Web – Spring 2

Pets



	What we will be covering in class	Supporting your child's learning at home.
Engage	We will start this half term by talking about pets that we have. We all have the shared experience of our school guinea-pig but the children will want to talk about their own pets as well.	<p>Our work this half term is all about developing a Growth Mindset – developing a ‘can do’ attitude. The children will be taught that they may find it difficult to learn new things, but if they practice, try hard and don’t give up then they will be able to do it in the end. We will be learning how to care for animals and the children will take more responsibility with our guinea-pig Nelly.</p> <p>Please continue to support your child by reading and practicing sounds and words. It makes a significant difference to children’s reading if they read at least 3 times a week at home. Many of the children are beginning to make rapid progress so please help them by giving them a reason to read and write at home – reading clues to find things, writing a list, reading and writing labels about pets or anything that they are interested in. Your child could write labels to stick on their favourite toys – ask them to sound out e.g c-ar-s d-o-l-s (don’t worry about correct spelling at this stage – just use the sounds that your child knows)</p>
Develop	The children will develop their understanding of how to care for living things by considering the needs our guinea-pig and then to apply this understanding to looking after other pets in our Pet Shop role play.	
Innovate	The children will use their experiences to create their own stories and information posters about pets.	
Express	We will be inviting children to post a Show and Tell session about their pets that we can share.	

Mathematical Development

We will be focusing on counting and recognizing numbers up to 20, and solving number problems, including sharing, doubling and halving.
We will be playing games which involve adding 2 scores together, recording what we find out by using tally marks and numbers.
We will explore data handling skills by conducting surveys of our favourite pets.
We will be exploring measures, comparing the length and weight of different toy pets from our role play.

Communication and language

The children will be expected to listen to stories with increasing attention and recall, answering questions specific to the text in order to develop their understanding of what they are hearing or reading themselves.
We will develop the children’s vocabulary by asking them to describe animals, and we will build sentences from a simple ‘It is a dog’ to ‘It is a big fierce hairy dog’
Our work this half term will support the children to develop their questioning skills in order to find out as much as we can about pets. Adults will be supporting the children to use language to imagine and recreate roles and experiences in play situations.

Literacy

We will focus on sentence construction, phonic skills and letter formation to ensure that the children’s writing can be read back by other people.
Fiction: Creative Writing: The children will become familiar with selected stories, which we will then change in order to create our own versions. This will support the children to become more independent in developing their own ideas. They will create and use story maps in order to remember the important parts of the stories that we have read together.
Non-Fiction: Instructions and information
The children will record what a pet needs in order to be safe, healthy and happy by making information posters. We will compare fiction and non fiction books about pets, identifying the features of each genre.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will focus on *Growth Mindset* this term, teaching the children how to develop effective learning behaviour. Ask your child what they will do if they find something difficult – will they just give up or will they keep practicing and trying hard until they succeed?
The children will develop an understanding that pets and people need many of the same things from food and water to love and friendship.
We will be exploring our feelings and emotions and how to regulate our responses.

Physical Development

We will continue with our *Shake up wake up!* physical exercises which focus on posture and stamina, developing the strength and control in their shoulder, arm and finger muscles. These include Island Adventure, Dough disco and Go Noodle exercises. The children will also experience big physical outside play – den building / bikes / planks and crates / water play / tubes and guttering / beanbags and balls etc. Our handwriting practice will concentrate on forming letters correctly.

Understanding the World

We will be learning lots of facts about pets and finding out how to care for them, and we will find out what the most popular pet is in our classes.
We will celebrate Mother's day and Easter, making cards, presents and baskets.

Expressive arts and design

The children have music and movement every day, during which time we develop a sense of beat and rhythm, using instruments.
We will be learning lots of new songs for our production
The role play area in the Rainbow Class will be a Pet Shop and Vets surgery, and in the Sunshine Class it will be a Home Corner
The children have access to art and craft materials at all times

Key Dates:

Blank area for key dates.