Communication and Language

Communication and language development will underpin all areas of learning throughout the term. Children will be introduced to ambitious topic vocabulary linked to animals, habitats, hibernation, fire safety, winter and Christmas celebrations.

Through stories, discussions, role play and investigations, they will be encouraged to listen carefully, ask questions, share ideas and build confidence when speaking in a range of situations.

Key vocabulary will include words such as *animal, habitat, hibernate, hibernation, shelter, woodland, firefighter, emergency, bonfire, fireworks, sparklers, winter, survive, prepare, celebration, tradition, kindness and sharing.*

Understanding the World

Children will investigate a wide range of animals and habitats, exploring where animals live and how they survive in different environments. They will learn about seasonal change as autumn transitions into winter and discover how this affects the natural world.

As part of our enquiry, children will learn what hibernation is, why some animals hibernate, which animals hibernate and how they prepare for winter. They will also learn about fire safety and the important role of firefighters, in the lead up to our local community bonfire night.

Children will continue to develop their understanding of the natural world through weekly Forest School sessions, seasonal observations and outdoor exploration.

Through our weekly Little Cooks sessions, children will explore seasonal ingredients, learn about healthy eating and develop practical skills whilst preparing foods linked to their learning, including apple crumble, hedgehog bread rolls and woodland trail mix.

Literacy

Our pre-school children will continue to follow the Little Wandle Foundations and Phase 2 Phonics Programme, learning the sounds s, a, t, p, i, n and m.

Through daily phonics sessions, children will develop their listening skills, sound recognition, oral blending and early reading behaviours. Throughout the term, children will enjoy a range of carefully chosen texts linked to our enquiry, including Busy Fire Station, Bear Snores On, Time to Sleep, The Busy Little Squirrel, Don't Hog the Hedge!, Dear Santa and Pip and Posy: The Christmas Tree.

Children will also continue to develop their mark making and early writing skills through the Letter-join pre-writing programme, exploring a variety of pre-writing patterns and movements before applying these skills within meaningful writing opportunities and recording their progress within their individual Early Writing Journeys.

Autumn 2 – Why do animals hibernate?



Mathematics

Our pre-school children will continue to follow the White Rose Maths Early Years Scheme, developing their understanding of subitising, number, pattern, shape, space and measure through practical, hands-on experiences. Children will explore mathematical concepts through games, investigations and everyday problem-solving opportunities.

For our younger children, mathematical learning will be embedded within their daily interactions and play experiences, encouraging them to develop early counting skills, compare quantities, recognise patterns and explore positional language.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children will develop confidence, independence and resilience through exploration, play and group experiences. They will learn about caring for animals through our veterinary role-play area, discuss how firefighters help keep communities safe and explore themes of kindness, friendship and helping others through our Christmas learning. Children will be encouraged to work cooperatively, take turns, share ideas and celebrate similarities and differences between themselves and others.

Physical Development

Children will continue to develop their gross and fine motor skills through indoor and outdoor play, Forest School, mark making, construction, creative activities and cooking experiences. They will strengthen their hand muscles through activities such as playdough, threading, cutting, tweezing and manipulating small resources. Children will also take part in movement activities inspired by animals and seasonal changes, helping them to develop coordination, balance and body control.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will explore a range of creative techniques through painting, printing, collage and construction. Learning will be inspired by animals, autumn, Bonfire Night, woodland habitats and Christmas celebrations. As part of our Artist Appreciation, children will explore the work of Andrew Parkinson, a British wildlife photographer, looking closely at animal photographs, taking their own pictures and creating their own cameras. Children will also develop their imagination through small world play and role-play experiences, including our veterinary surgery, fire station and Christmas workshop.