

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Class: Reception–



Mrs S Williams/Miss J Weatherburn

Term: Autumn A: 2026

Whole school topic: 'Fantastic Foundations'.

Literacy Tree Story: 'Cave Baby'.

Topic Question: 'How do animals survive at night?'

Main topic focus: Settling into our new class, developing positive relationships, self-care skills. Friends, families, woodland/nocturnal animals, prehistoric creatures, features of our environment.

Welcome to our new class. Meeting new people and establishing friendships. Taking care of ourselves, others, and our new environment. Establishing daily routines and rules in the classroom.

Main skills to acquire:

- Learning objectives with reference to EYFS

Understand how to listen carefully and why listening is important.

Describe events in some detail.

Articulate their ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences.

Participate in small group, class and one to one discussion, offering their own ideas using new vocabulary.

Learn new vocabulary through the day and related to new story text and topics.

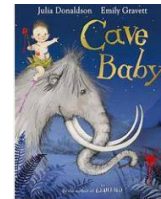
Retell the story, once they have developed a familiarity with the text, repetition and use of their own words.

Engage in non-fiction books. Listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary.

***Ongoing skills to develop throughout half-term**

Respond to simple instructions. Talk about how we can work safely and sensibly in our classroom; follow the behaviour STC prompts. Follow safety guidelines for washing our hands. Encourage the children to stop and listen to instructions e.g. when tidying the classroom. Listen for the signal of when it is time to stop an activity. Learn and sing the 'Tidy up' song.

Remind children to follow instructions during P.E, Music and Forest School sessions - Practise responding to simple instructions when preparing for and during lunchtime/ transitioning to going outside for play time and moving to different activities/ P.E/Music sessions/Assembly times.



Week	Teaching	Practising
1 03/09/26- 04/09/26	INSET DAYS	
2 07/09/26- 11/09/26 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' Settling into new class week.	*Remind the children that when we are talking to each other we need to remember to face each other and have good eye contact; Look at each other; when the other person is talking; remind the children to keep looking at that person speaking. Listen and. show interest in what the person is talking about. Respond by talking about and sharing their own ideas. Adults to model. Talk about what special things we did with our families and friends during the summer holiday. Encourage the children to think about their experiences. Model to the children how we talk about our past experiences e.g. I went for a walk to the park. (Adult to model using the past tense vocabulary.)	<u>PSHE</u>: Recount and share their experiences within a small group. <u>Literacy/EAD</u>: Listen to the story; 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. Adult led activity to model and encourage the children to describe the story events. Learn new story vocabulary. <u>Literacy</u>: The children are going to describe story structure; what happens at the beginning, middle and end? Describe the setting and characters.
3 14/09/26 - 18/09/26 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' Settling into new class week. /'Climate sustainability' themed week.	Adults to encourage the children to listen carefully to stories and model how to respond to questions in a sentence aloud. Model how we talk to each other within the group; wait our turn, give eye contact, face the person you are speaking to. Use talk to explain your ideas. Remember to use our listening ears! Put your hand up in response to a question. Learn new vocabulary through the day and related to new story text and topics.	<u>PSHE</u>: Talk about how we are special and different. Play circle game; 'I am special because...'. Play this game to encourage the children to share their ideas and thoughts about what's special about themselves. Talk about our 'Families'. What is special about our families? Talk about the countries where our families live. Say 'Hello' using different languages from around the world. <u>ART</u>: Draw self-portraits. Use the mirrors. Name features of faces: face shape, eyes, nose, mouth, lips, ears, eyebrows, eyelashes, hair style.. What colour are your eyes? What colour is your hair? What does your hair look like? What's special about your smile? <u>Mathematics</u>: To use the vocabulary related to counting and sorting sets of objects.
4 21/09/26- 25/09/26 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' Settling into new class week. /'Climate sustainability' themed week.	Adults to encourage the children to listen carefully to stories and model how to respond to questions in a sentence aloud. Model how we talk to each other within the group; wait our turn, give eye contact, face the person you are speaking to. Use talk to explain your ideas. Remember to use our listening ears! Put your hand up in response to a question. Learn new vocabulary through the day and related to new story texts and topics.	<u>Literacy</u>: The children are going to name and describe features of stories shared. Stories to include 'Elmer', 'Smeds and Smoos' 'Colour Monster' 'Giraffes can't dance'. <u>UTW</u>: Name and describe different woodland animals e.g. fox, owls, mice, hedgehog, badger, deer and rabbits. <u>UTW</u>: Talk about what the children observed on the 'Bridgwater Fair' welly walk around the local area. Use new vocabulary acquired to describe features. Use photographs from walk/STC vocabulary to support. <u>Mathematics</u>: To use the vocabulary related to counting and sorting sets of objects. Use the vocabulary relating to comparing numbers of objects. <u>PSED</u>: Talk about my feelings. Use STC visual prompts to support from class feelings chart.
5 28/09/26- 02/10/26	Introduce the Literacy Tree Story text; 'Cave Baby'. Wow story activity day to introduce the theme of story.	<u>Literacy</u>: Listen to the story of 'Cave Baby'. Learn new story vocabulary.

<u>Literacy Tree Story: 'Cave Baby'</u>	Adults to encourage the children to listen carefully to stories and model how to respond to questions in a sentence aloud. Model how we talk to each other within the group; wait our turn, give eye contact, face the person you are speaking to. Use talk to explain your ideas. Remember to use our listening ears! Put your hand up in response to a question. Learn new vocabulary through the day and related to new story text and topics.	The children are going to name and describe features of the cave story setting and story characters. Use STC visual vocabulary to support. <u>PSHE:</u> Families: Talk about different families and children to understand that all types are special. <u>UTW:</u> Discuss day/night times of the day. Name sources of light; sun, stars, different types of lights e.g. street lamps, car lights, flashing lights.. <u>Mathematics:</u> To use the vocabulary related to counting and sorting sets of objects. Use the vocabulary relating to comparing numbers of objects.
6 05/10/26-09/10/26 <u>Literacy Tree Story: 'Cave Baby'</u>	Adults to encourage the children to listen carefully to questions and model how to respond in a sentence aloud. Model how we talk to each other within the group; wait our turn, give eye contact, face the person you are speaking to. Use talk to explain your ideas. Remember to use our listening ears! Put your hand up in response to a question. Learn new vocabulary through the day and related to new story text and topics.	<u>Literacy/EAD/PD:</u> Look at pictures of caves. What does a cave look like? What animals might they see? Children to make their own drawing of a cave. <u>PSHE:</u> Talk about how to be kind to others? Have you made friends in your new class? Why are friends special? <u>Mathematics:</u> To use the vocabulary related to counting and sorting sets of objects. Use the vocabulary relating to comparing numbers of objects. <u>UTW/EAD/PD: Outdoor activity</u> Look at trees in our school environment: Name parts of a tree: trunk, roots, branches, leaves. What can you see on the trees? Can you see any changes? What animals visit trees? Draw a sketch of a tree. Name features of an Owl (Draw/paint owl pictures) <u>Prehistoric Creatures:</u> Name and describe features of Dinosaurs/ Mammoths
7 12/10/26-16/10/26 <u>Assessment Week</u> <u>Literacy Tree Story: 'Cave Baby'</u> *Parents Day: 16/10/26	Learn new vocabulary through the day and related to new subject themes. Adults to encourage the children to listen carefully to questions and model how to respond in a sentence aloud. Model how we talk to each other within the group; wait our turn, give eye contact, face the person you are speaking to. Use talk to explain your ideas. Remember to use our listening ears! Put your hand up in response to a question.	<u>Literacy:</u> To say a sentence aloud to describe features of the characters from the story. <u>UTW/PSED:/R.E:</u> 'Special Me': Birthdays: How we celebrate. Find out our birth dates. <u>UTW:</u> Name and match woodland adult animals with their young. Revisit naming and describing woodland/nocturnal animals. What do some of these animals eat?
8 19/10/26-23/10/26 Theme Week:	Adults to encourage the children to listen carefully to questions and model how to respond in a sentence aloud. Model how we talk to each other within the group; wait our turn, give eye contact, face the person you are speaking to. Use talk to explain your ideas. Remember to use our listening ears! Put your hand up in response to a question. Follow instructions a step at a time. Learn new vocabulary through the day and related to new story text and topics. Uses talk to connect ideas, explain what is happening and anticipate what might happen next, recall and relive past experiences.	Themed week activities to be planned nearer the time.

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