

# Curriculum Newsletter

## Spring 2: Saving Our Environment

### Robins



This half-term, our Reception children will be learning about 'Minibeasts'. This will involve using a wide range of non-fiction and fiction books about minibeasts, and labelling and writing about minibeasts. They will be enjoying role play in a cafe and participating in many discussions around minibeasts and their habitats. We will also be exploring the natural world around us, and thinking about how to take care of minibeasts in our environment.

In KS1, the class topic is 'Bees' and it is supported by using the wonderful core text 'Omar, the Bees and Me' by Helen Mortimer. In English we will be writing a Fact File about bees, writing some descriptive poetry, and writing instructions on creating a bee-friendly garden.

In Science we will be learning all about Living things and their habitats, and considering the Key Question: Why do animals and plants live in different habitats and microhabitats? This will include lessons on:

- Identifying and naming a variety of plants and animals in a microhabitat
- Designing a suitable microhabitat where living things could survive
- Finding out what animals eat to survive in their habitat
- Understanding food chains

In Geography we will be looking at the Key Question: Why is Longford a good place to beeeeeee? We will explore our local environments and discuss ways of protecting and improving our natural spaces. Our Design and Technology lessons will focus on making honey crunch biscuits and packaging. In the last week of term, we will also be looking at the season of Spring and will be celebrating Easter.



### Woodpeckers



Save our Environment - Is our exciting topic for Spring 2! The children entered the classroom on Monday to an array of wild animals on the board. They were asked – What do all of these animals have in common? This generated lots of class discussion and the answer...they are all endangered species at risk of extinction! This week, we have looked into the charity organisation (WWF) and what they do globally to support endangered animals and their habitats. The children have spent time designing posters that will be displayed around school for our end of topic outcome which will be a charity fundraiser for the WWF. They will be selling cakes, wearing it wild and running competitions such as 'Guess the name of the elephant!'.

Our core texts this half term are – 'Red Alert!' By Catherine Barr and Anne Wilson and 'Will We Miss Them?' by Alexandra Wright.

In Science, our **Big Question is: 'Are living things in danger?'** The children will be learning about 'Living things and their habitats'. In Geography, our **Enquiry Question is: 'How do environments and the animals within them compare across the world?'** The children will be looking at different biomes, as well as what animals are endangered in different parts of the world. In Textiles we will be studying Batik backgrounds & embroidered shapes/animals - cool tones (oceans) and warm tones (land).



### Owls

This term, our class topic is Shackleton, supported by core texts 'The 'Polar Bear Explorers' Club' by Alex Bell and 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill. In English, we will be producing an advert, letter and story opening. In Geography, our key question is 'What is the significance of the Arctic and Antarctic for our world?'. The children will be completing various tasks within this topic which help look at key questions such as:

- Where is Antarctica?
- Who Found Antarctica?
- What is life like at the Poles?
- What was the planned journey of the Endurance Expedition?
- Do people live on Antarctica?

Our Science this term is living things and their habitats and our enquiry question is 'In what ways can we sort living things?'. Our art is looking at the artist Alberto Giacometti. We will be studying him as an artist, studying people in action (Shackleton's crew), designing a sculpture, sculpting using wire and mod roc and drawing ice mountains in 3D.



