

Class Newsletter

Dosbarth Pili Pala ~ Butterfly Class



Spring Term Overview

Welcome back! The Butterfly team would like to wish you a Happy New Year!

Our learning for this term will focus on 'Animals Big and Small'. The children will discover and explore the wonderful variety of animals in our world through sensory exploration, movement, stories and play opportunities. Children will compare big and small creatures, explore their different habitats, engage with different tactile materials, act out animal movements, and enjoy stories and songs that develop language and communication skills. They will learn about what animals like to eat and share their own experiences of the animals they may have at home or seen at other peoples homes and have helped care for.

Through sorting, matching, creative arts, counting and categorisation such as size, food they eat, where they live, how they move, their body coverings, colours, patterns and sounds the animals make, the children can begin to build their confidence and curiosity about animals in our natural world.

You can help your child at home with:

Families can help at home by looking for and talking about animals in books or any you see out and about. You could visit the local pet shops to see the animals. You may also like to sing animals songs, make playdough animals or sort and count different sized objects around the home. Even find cartoons that include animals for them to watch!

Staffing:

These are the staff that work in Dosbarth Pili-Pala ~ Butterfly class:

Class teacher: Mrs Rees

Class teaching assistants: Mrs O'Brien (who covers PPA on a Friday afternoon for Mrs Rees who works from home), Miss Rees, Miss Hatherway and Mrs Absolom. We say goodbye to Mr Tew who finished with us last term.

Communication:

If you have any questions, please speak to a member of staff, either at the door at drop-off or pick-up times, or via Class **Dojo**. We will also communicate with you via Class Dojo.

We will also post on **Seesaw** and share your child's work with you. Please do not reply on Seesaw - it is only meant to share your child's work.

Intimate care and spare clothing:

If your child requires intimate care please provide the required items. We will let you know when we run short of supplies.

Please send in spare clothing in your child's school bag. If we use them we will return them to you in a sealed bag and let you know on dojo why your child needed to be changed.

Snack:

We have a very social and enjoyable snack time in class every day. If you would like us to provide your child's snack please send in £1 every Monday. However, if your child prefers a specific snack please send it in and we will ensure they are kept in our snack cupboard/class fridge. We only have water or milk to offer as a drink, but if your child does not like these please provide the alternative.

Important reminders:

Monday - return green news book and your class reading book and diary.
Tuesday - return library book for our library visit
Thursdays - our trip day

An important change:

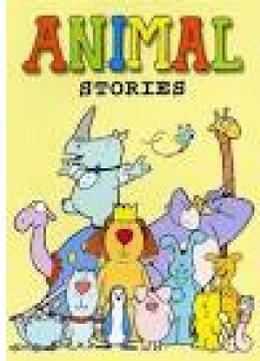
Your children will enter at the same door but be dismissed from the bottom door to the left of our classroom. Please inform escorts.

Reflection Question/s

How do animals of different sizes live, move, eat and survive in our natural world?



Literacy, Language & communication



Learner skills & experiences

Vocabulary – topic based focusing on size, movement and different features. Develop interest and knowledge through stories, non fiction books, video clips and animal sensory boxes.
 Communication boards and choice making techniques and use of props, textures, sounds and smells. Drawing, labelling and writing about different animals. Animal alphabet, weekly letter recognition, formation, sentence and text level work. World book day.

Why am I learning this?

- To develop vocabulary and communication skills.
- To develop attention, sustained attention, joint attention and social interaction/turn taking.
- To develop curiosity and knowledge.
- Strengthen thinking and responding.
- To develop memory and engage the senses.

Mathematics and Numeracy



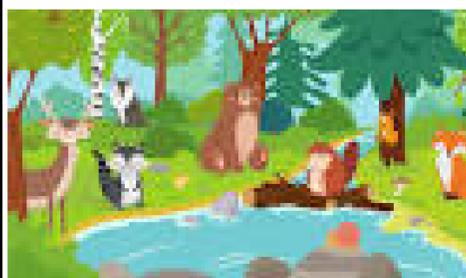
Learner skills & experiences

Measurement: Exploring ideas of big and small, bigger and smaller, longer and shorter through comparisons. Distances animals can travel, jump, step.
 Number: Sorting, ordering and comparing animals into groups developing counting, understanding of number and it's value. Animal strips for patterns alongside exploring patterns in number. Exploring less than, more than. here

Why am I learning this?

- To develop problem solving and ways to work things out.
- To develop reasoning to spot patterns and make connections.
- Confidence to give things a try and observe and work with others to support learning.
- To develop resilience and a need to explore and use different objects/materials.
- Following steps and shifted attention.

Science & Technology



Learner skills & experiences

Learning about animals and how they live, grow, eat and why every animal is important ~ from a big elephant to a small bee.
 Making comparisons between big and small animals and their footprints.
 Our class pet project.
 Observing animals in their natural habitats and making comparisons.
 Hunting minibeasts.

Why am I learning this?

- To develop understanding of how animals live and survive.
- To develop and make sense of our natural world.
- To connect learning to real experiences.
- To develop empathy and responsibility.
- To encourage respect for all living things and understand why all creatures matter.
- To engage in outdoor tasks.

Humanities



Learner skills & experiences

Exploring our natural world and the animals within it and where they live.
 Understanding animals belong to different places such as farms, jungle, ocean, arctic, through stories, pictures and outdoor experiences. Learning how to care for living things and respect them as part of our natural world.

Why am I learning this?

- To develop recognition of different animals within our natural world and where they live.
- To develop an understanding that living things have different needs.
- To develop empathy and respect for animals and the environment.
- To learn through real experiences.

Expressive Arts



Learner skills & experiences

St Dwynwen, Valentine's day, St David's day and Easter crafts.
 Animal movements and sounds.
 Topical songs, stories for drama and dance.
 Using music to develop understanding of how animals move, live, sound and look ~ matching these using percussion instruments (music therapy). Foot and hand print art of various animals.

Why am I learning this?

- To develop creative expression through drama, movement and communication in various forms.
- To develop sensory skills, fine and gross motor skills.
- Cultural awareness through celebrations of important events in our lives. Welsh traditions and basic Welsh language skills.
- To develop speaking and listening skills.

Health & Well-being



Learner skills & experiences

Health and Hygiene – tooth brushing and handwashing. Daily check in/out – feelings and emotions. Local park visits and daily access to our own play area. Class helper/Butterfly rules and responsibilities. Classroom routines ~ Ready Respectful and Safe. Daily visual timetable AM and PM. Tac Pac time and sensory circuits. Massage and relaxation time – Golden time. Rights of the Month– Article 27 (good standard of living) Article 29 (be the best you can be) Article 6 (life and be healthy) Article 31 (relax and play).

Why am I learning this?

- To develop personal hygiene skills.
- To develop emotional awareness and expressing emotions safely.
- To develop self regulation using sensory circuits, relaxation, massage, class ALN resources and time out zones.
- To develop fine and gross motor skills.
- To develop independence, responsibility, empathy and teamwork.