



Bamburgh Class – Summer 1: 'Oi Frog' & 'The Bog Baby'

We hope you have had a good Easter break and we are looking forward to the start of our summer term.

This half term we will be using two stories for our topics. Oi Frog! by Kes Gray & Jim Field and The Bog Baby by Jeanne Willis, illustrated by Gwen Millward.

Oi Frog!

This unit of work immerses children in the hilarious language, rhyme and characters of the award winning illustrated picture book series Oi Frog!, Oi Dog!, Oi Cat! and Oi Duck-Billed Platypus! The text will be used to develop reading comprehension, vocabulary and writing including the exploration of rhyme and rhyming words. Children will have opportunities to rehearse the correct use of grammar and punctuation. Using the story children will apply all that they have learned in this story to create a short rhyming story of their own.

In science we will look at the life cycle of a frog. Using our eyes, we will be studying how animals are suited to their environments and how they are part of the 'food chain'. Using non-fiction books, the children will then find out facts about frogs and create their own information texts.

Pond dipping - children will also have the opportunity to do pond dipping, they will explore and record information on the number of creatures found in our pond area.

The Bog Baby

This is a magical story with a serious message about what it means to really love something. When two small sisters decide to go fishing in the magic pond, they find something unexpected and much better than a frog or a newt: they find a bog baby. Small and blue with wings like a dragon, the girls love him with a passion and make a pact to make him their secret. But the bog baby is a wild thing, and when he becomes poorly, one of the girls breaks silence and tells their mum. And she teaches them the greatest lesson, if you really love something, you have to do the best for it and let it go....

The book supports teaching about emotional response to narrative fiction. The narrative structure is carefully crafted to be thought-provoking and the characters and settings are well drawn, offering young readers a good model for their own role play, experimentation and many opportunities for creative writing.

The aims of this unit are:

- To engage children with a story with which they will empathise;
- To explore, develop and sustain ideas through talk;
- To explore and interpret stories through creative activity including play, art, drama and drawing;
- To write for meaning and purpose in a variety of narrative and non-narrative forms.

This book is perfect for exploring how to care for the wild animals that live in our local area. In science we will learn about different habitats and consider what bog baby's natural habitat would be like. Then recreate our own habitat for bog baby.

You might like to have ago making things at home to help wild animals that live in your garden, here are some ideas and links:

- Use logs and sticks to make a habitat pile in the outside environment to attract mini beasts: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/advice/gardening/deadwood.aspx>
- Make a bird cake or bird feeder to care for local wildlife: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/youth/makeanddo/index.aspx>
- Build an insect home: http://www.rspb.org.uk/advice/gardening/insects/building_homes.aspx

Tadpoles/Frogs – after closely observing how our tadpoles have developed in the classroom, towards the end of this half term we will be returning them to their natural habitat in the pond.

Please see our topic web for further information on our topic themes and activities this half term.

Maths

Last half term we introduced Times Table Rockstars and Numbots to children. Please continue to use these fun, interactive sites at home to support your child's learning.

This half term in maths we will be focusing on:

- Multiplication and division
- Data handling
- Fractions

Reading Books

Your child should bring their blue plastic reading wallet to school each day. We have some additional help with readers during the week, so if your child has their reading book in school this is a great help.

Reading books are usually changed on Monday and Friday. We would encourage you to read with your child on a daily basis and record this in the reading record book along with any comments or questions you may have about your child's reading. Your child will be given two books which they need to read twice to help them to develop fluency.

Spellings

The spellings for Year 1 and Year 2 are available on the school website on our class page and they will also be on Google classroom. On Google classroom you can also download resources that may be useful to help your child to learn and practice their spellings. Each week we have our spelling check at the end of each week, usually takes place on a Friday.

Water Bottles & PE

Please ensure your child has a water bottle to use in school.

This half term we will have PE on a Wednesday. We will be learning new skills in Cricket with Tom Vickers. There will also be an afterschool cricket club.

Ways to help your child:

- Play Times Table Rockstars or Numbots.
- Use phonic and spelling resources on Google classroom.
- Regular reading at home & reading stories to your child, to develop the love of reading.
- Visit the library to look for books to support our topic.
- Use the Internet to research our topics.
- Play English and math games on our virtual learning environment at www.school360.co.uk.

Kind regards

Miss Richardson