



Learning Exploration: Britain's Brilliant Beasts



After looking at changes within living memory in the UK and exploring the immediate world around us, it is time to expand our horizons further. The children will learn to understand how to identify and classify groups of animals within UK; including humans.

We will continue to revisit the concept of place in Geography as well as knowledge of the countries within the United Kingdom as we look at the animal habitats. In Spring 2 we will begin 'Wandering the World'. This will extend our animal classification and identification in science as we look at a wider range of habitats, visit the zoo and understand movement across regions through migration. Therefore, it is important for the children to have a secure understanding of the UK before moving on.

Hook into learning:

Children will collect insects from the Wilderness to keep within a wormery and insect tank in the classrooms. First aid and nursing roleplay incorporated into classrooms.

Journey through the exploration

In this Learning Exploration, children will explore different categories of animals and use or gather data to answer questions such as 'what makes a fish a fish?' or 'why is that a bird?' Children will focus on a different animal group each week and begin to compare animal groups as they secure their understanding. Our English text *I Love Bugs* gives children a good opportunity to observe and describe bugs in more detail, practising their observational skills.

With a focus on significant figures within History, children also need to explore time before living memory and begin to find ways of discovering what life was like without being able to ask people who are still alive. Using artefacts, questioning and comparison, the children will learn about how the individual contributions of Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale have influenced modern day healthcare and practices.

In Art, children will explore mixing colours and controlling their mark making with a range of techniques and art materials.



Opportunities to build cultural capital

Cultural capital is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said, and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

At NCSPA, we aim to build cultural capital through experiences such as trips, visitors, music and providing local links.

For Year 1, options this term may include:

- Exploring music and how it makes them feel
- Writing and performing poetry
- Having a visit from a member of the nursing team to talk about modern day nursing.

Opportunities for shared outcomes

Children will have the opportunity to produce or take part in one or more of the following:

- Performing their own poetry to an audience



Opportunities to address Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Children will have the opportunity to address EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) in this Learning Exploration in several ways:

- PSHE – Dreams and Goals. Pupils will be helped to understand and value the fact that everyone's dreams and goals are personal to them and may not be the same as anyone else's.
- RE - While investigating the question *What makes some places sacred to believers?*, children will be encouraged to respect and value the beliefs of others.
- Exploring the impact of significant individuals from different cultures and backgrounds.



Further curriculum information

If you would like any further information regarding the curriculum, please:

- Speak to Ms Willson or Mrs Lees.
- See your child's class information on Seesaw.
- Visit the Curriculum pages on our website.



Parent/Carer Curriculum Information

Year 1

Linked subjects

Through this exploration, learning will be linked where appropriate, including in the following subjects:

- Art
- Science

The following subjects will also be taught discretely during this half term:

- History
- PSHE
- Computing
- Music
- PE
- RE

Maths

Children will explore:

- Place value within 20.
- Addition and subtraction within 20.
- Composition of numbers within 10.



Writing

Children will explore the following genres of writing:

Poetry:

- *I Love Bugs* by Emma Dodd
- Purpose: to entertain
- Pupils will use the model text to write and perform their own poems

Fiction – Narrative:

- *The Three Little Pigs* by Mara Alperin
- Purpose: to entertain
- Pupils will write their own retelling of the story

Opportunities for writing across the curriculum:

- Science – Writing about the animals they have found out about
- Simple sentence and caption writing across the curriculum



Spring 1, 2026