



WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE



**LOWER SCHOOL
PATHWAY 1
AUTUMN 2**

ENGLISH



Students will explore character's feelings, emotions, appearance, actions and personality. They will apply written skills to familiar texts. Students will review and consolidate their use of punctuation to improve accuracy and clarity. They will take part in role play and drama activities.

PSHE

We will explore rules and laws, human rights and caring for animals and the environment. We will also learn about diversity, and discuss prejudice and discrimination, with a focus on disability and inclusion, linked to self-awareness and understanding the world we live in.

COMPUTING



Within this Digital Creativity and Communication topic, students will explore how they can paint using different software. Students will use shapes and lines to express their feelings. Throughout this topic students will also learn about online safety - staying safe online.

SCIENCE

Students will explore animal habitats in their local environment and from around the world. They will compare similarities and differences. Students will explore a range of environments and how these meet the needs of the animals.

AUTUMN 2

ANIMALS PATHWAY (KS2 & KS3)

Where the Wild Things Are

This half term, our topic is Where the Wild Things Are. We will be exploring this exciting theme across the curriculum to make learning as meaningful and engaging as possible for our students. We will be visiting Whipsnade Zoo this half term, to enable pupils to see real animals up close and make meaningful connections with what they are learning in class.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Students will discuss and share belonging in the wider world, what groups they belong to and their feelings towards this.

Students will explore what forgiveness means and how it makes them feel when they forgive someone by using words and kind gestures and actions.

MATHS

Students will be learning about shape, including 2-D and 3-D shapes and their features. They will also continue to build confidence with place value and early number skills within 20. In addition, they will begin exploring money and early multiplication and division through equal groups, sharing and the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

HUMANITIES

Students will explore basic maps, including map keys. They will have the opportunity to give and follow directions whilst creating their own maps. Students will explore the key features of different places.

ABOUT THE LOWER SCHOOL

In the Lower School, everything we do is carefully planned to prepare students for increasing independence and a successful transition into Key Stage 4, where the focus becomes Preparing for Adulthood. By the time they leave KS3, your child will have:

- Teaching tailored to each student's EHCP, with progress regularly reviewed and support adapted to ensure meaningful, personalised progress
- A growing awareness of their own strengths, interests and aspirations
- An understanding of how exams work in preparation for gaining qualifications
- The confidence to begin planning for their future, supported by staff who know them well
- Begin to work more independently, taking greater ownership of their learning and daily routines
- Developed self-care skills, such as personal hygiene, emotional regulation and understanding healthy choices
- An understanding of e-safety, including how to stay safe online, recognise risks and use technology responsibly
- Know how to keep themselves safe in the community, including what to do in an emergency and who to go to for help
- Developed the social, communication and life skills needed to move confidently into Key Stage 4
- Be able to show compassion and kindness towards others, demonstrating empathy and respectful behaviour
- An understanding of the importance of caring for the world we live in, including animals, the environment and making responsible choices
- The skills to socialise appropriately with peers and adults, including taking turns, understanding personal boundaries and showing respect
- The knowledge to keep themselves safe in the community, including road safety, stranger awareness and making safe choices

The Lower School is all about making progress, building confidence and independence and ensuring students have a clear sense of direction.



WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS

Class	05/11/25 - 26/11/25	03/12/25 - 17/12/25
Otters	Outdoor Adventure & Performing Arts	Art & Small Animal Care
Lemurs	Cooking & Forest School	Forest School & Art
Red Pandas	Forest School & Outdoor Adventure	Cooking & Performing Arts
Tigers	Performing Arts & Small Animal Care	Outdoor Adventure & Cooking
Capybaras	Art & Cooking	Small Animal Care & Forest School
Butterflies	Small Animal Care & Art	Performing Arts & Outdoor Adventure

THURSDAY AFTERNOONS

From next half term, there will be a new PE structure on Thursdays, while Monday sessions will remain unchanged. In response to parent and pupil feedback, we are introducing an A/B rota, where the pathway will be divided into two groups that will alternate having PE each week. This ensures students still access an average of two hours of physical activity weekly, in line with government recommendations. When students are not taking part in PE, they will engage in targeted activities designed to support progress towards their individual EHCP outcomes.

	Classes partaking in PE	Dates for PE lessons
Group A	Butterflies Red Pandas Tigers	6/11/25 20/11/25 4/12/25 18/12/25
Group B	Otters Lemurs Capybaras	13/11/25 27/11/25 11/12/25

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

This half term, our topic is Where the Wild Things Are. We will be exploring this exciting theme across the curriculum to make learning as meaningful and engaging as possible for our students. Research shows that children learn best when their experiences connect to their interests, so we have designed lessons that build links between subjects and allow plenty of opportunities for revisiting key concepts. This repetition helps to ensure that learning is consolidated and that students develop a deep understanding – enabling them to describe, explain, and apply what they have learned. As we approach the busy lead-up to Christmas, there will also be a number of trips and special events taking place; you can find all relevant dates on the final page of the curriculum overview. We look forward to sharing exciting moments with you and your child and weekly newsletters will continue to provide you with information from the week that has passed.

English

During this half term, students will develop their skills in character description by exploring how to describe a character's feelings, emotions, appearance, actions and personality. They will apply these skills to familiar texts, including Where the Wild Things Are, writing detailed character descriptions to show understanding. Students will also continue to review and consolidate their use of correct punctuation across all areas of writing to improve accuracy and clarity. To deepen their understanding, they will take part in role play and drama activities, allowing them to explore characters more fully before transferring their ideas into written work.

Maths - Group 1

Students will learn about shape, with a focus on recognising and naming 2-D and 3-D shapes. They will also be developing their understanding of place value within 20, including skills such as counting, finding one more and one less, using number lines, estimating, and comparing and ordering numbers.

In addition, they will be working on addition and subtraction within 20, revisiting number bonds to 20, doubles, near doubles, subtracting, finding the difference, counting back, and solving missing number problems. This will help strengthen their confidence and fluency in early number skills.

Maths - Group 2

Next half term, students will be learning about shape, money and multiplication and division. They will recognise and describe 2-D and 3-D shapes, including counting sides, vertices, faces, edges, finding lines of symmetry and creating patterns. In money, they will count pence and pounds, make and compare amounts, calculate totals, find change and solve two-step problems. Students also work on multiplication and division through equal groups, grouping and sharing, using arrays, and learning the 2, 5, and 10 times tables with related division facts.

Memorable Experience

We are very excited to be visiting Whipsnade Zoo this half term as a memorable experience to deepen the student's learning. This trip has been chosen to bring our 'Where the Wild Things Are' theme to life by allowing pupils to see real animals up close and make meaningful connections with what they are learning in class. Experiences like this spark curiosity, inspire rich discussion, and create long-lasting memories that help students retain and apply their knowledge far beyond the classroom.

Science

Students will explore animal habitats in their local environment and from around the world. They will compare similarities and differences. Students will explore a range of environments and how these meet the needs of the animals. We will also visit Whipsnade Zoo and observe animals living in their habitat.

Religious Education

Students will discuss and share belonging in the wider world, what groups they belong to and their feelings towards this.

Students will explore what forgiveness means and how it makes them feel when they forgive someone by using words and kind gestures and actions.

PSHE

This half term in PSHE, we will focus on understanding rules and laws, human rights and how to care for animals and the environment. Students will learn about the value of diversity and explore prejudice and discrimination, particularly around disability and inclusion. We will also link this to SEND themes such as self-awareness and understanding the world we live in.

Humanities

Students will explore basic maps, including understanding map keys. They will practise giving and following directions, create their own maps, and identify different types of places along with their key features.

Drama

Drama will be taught across the curriculum in the form of role play.

Students will take on the role of characters from stories and perform in role using a range of props.

Art

Students will study Matisse and Picasso and their abstraction of the natural world. They have and will continue to investigate the arrangements of patterns to create mood and decoration. Pupils are learning to use continuous line and memory to develop their fluency in drawing. Over the Autumn term pupils are consolidating their knowledge on colour theory and its application to art making.

Pupils will be learning the art of printmaking beginning with simple stamps to lino cuts.

Physical Education

This half term, students will be completing Gymnastics this term. The focus of the term is "Gym in the Jungle". Pupils will be exploring various movement patterns, all whilst working on key skills such as; balance, coordination and Strength. Students will also be completing OAA tasks in PE this term. Lessons will include; orienteering, map reading and team games with the aim of improving fitness, problem solving and social skills.

Performing Arts

Learners will learn about healthy food choices and which local amenities provide fitness opportunities, mindfulness and relaxation. During these lessons, students will also focus on fitness and performing arts. Learners will explore why and how we can warm up and cool down as well as experiencing different styles of fitness. Throughout this topic, learners will follow and understand the importance of verbal and non-verbal instruction as well as working co-operatively with their peers.

Computing

We will be exploring Digital Creativity and Communication. Within these topics, students will explore how they can paint using different software such as Microsoft Paint and Purple Mash. Students will use shapes and lines, ensuring they make careful choices by expressing their thoughts and feelings. Throughout this topic students will also learn about online safety - staying safe online.

Outdoor Adventure

In our outdoor adventure lessons, children will explore the wonders of the outdoors and learn about the amazing plants and animals that live in the rainforest. They will enjoy activities such as nature trails, hide and seek, building shelters, and creating rainforest-inspired art using natural materials. These adventures will help children develop curiosity, teamwork, and a deeper appreciation of the natural world.

Forest School

Over this half term in the forest school students will be using a range of tools to cut wood and make items out of wood. They will be making fires and cooking a range of food and drinks on the fire. Students will be building shelters out of materials found in the woods. Students will also take part in a range of team building games. Please remember to bring coats and suitable shoes.

Cooking

In Cooking next half term, students will continue to build and develop a wide range of practical skills. We will focus on kitchen safety, food hygiene and the correct storage of food. Students will learn how to follow recipes carefully, including how to cut ingredients safely using good hand-eye coordination. We will also emphasise the importance of being organised and prepared when working in the kitchen.

Small Animal Care

Students will continue to learn about animal welfare, focusing on how to pick up animals safely. Students will learn how to clean enclosures with the appropriate materials to ensure the animals are safe. Additionally, students will be learning how to walk the alpacas safely.

Wider Reading

- Books related to animal habitats and wild animal stories.
- Themes of friendships and forgiveness.

Homework Themes

- Habitat project
- Research an animal and its habitat
- Animal collage
- Poster making
- Map making

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Half Term	Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October
Remembrance Assemblies	Thursday 6 th November & Friday 7 th November
Two-minutes Silence	Tuesday 11 th November
Speak Out, Stay Safe – PSHE lessons will share this focus	Monday 17 th November
School Photo Day	Tuesday 18 th November
Whipsnade Zoo – Memorable Experience (Butterflies, Red Pandas and Tigers)	Tuesday 18 th November
Image Musical Theatre Jungle Book production	Wednesday 26 th November
Training Day (No pupils in school)	Friday 28 th November
Rock Kidz UK (Whole-school workshops promoting self-esteem)	Thursday 4 th December
Christmas Jumper Day (All donations to Save the Children)	Wednesday 17 th December
Christmas Lunch	Wednesday 17 th December
Celebration Service @ St.Mary's Church	Thursday 18 th December
Christmas Pantomime (The All New Adventures of Peter Pan @ Grove Theatre)	Friday 19 th December