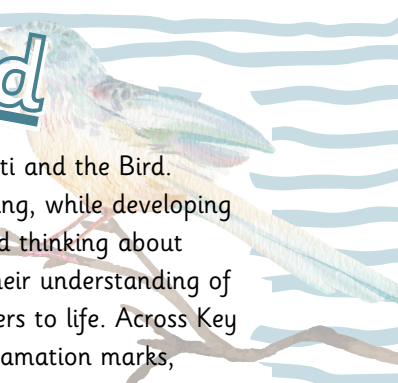


# As Free as a Bird



**English** - This half term, our English learning is inspired by the beautiful story *The Yeti and the Bird*. Through the story, the children will explore themes of friendship, kindness and belonging, while developing their writing skills. We will begin by writing letters, giving advice to the lonely Yeti and thinking about what makes a good friend. As we explore the story, our oldest children will develop their understanding of descriptive language, using adjectives, superlatives and noun phrases to bring characters to life. Across Key Stage 1, we will focus on the use of capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks, revisiting Year 2's previous learning while introducing and developing these concepts with our Year 1 children.

In EYFS, children will be exploring a variety of stories and developing a love of books and storytelling. They will begin to identify the sounds they hear in words and explore the letters used to represent them, before having a go at forming and writing these letters themselves. Children will have lots of opportunities for purposeful mark making and early writing through both our continuous provision and guided activities.

**Maths** - This half term, our youngest children will continue to develop their mathematical understanding through practical exploration and play. In EYFS, children will investigate and describe objects by noticing their colour, size, shape and texture, helping to build their mathematical vocabulary. They will also explore and create simple repeating patterns using a range of objects, shapes and sizes.

In Year 1, children will develop their understanding of numbers to 10, exploring what each number represents and how numbers can be compared. They will also learn to recognise number words and use the language greater than and less than when comparing amounts and numbers.

In Year 2, children will extend their understanding of numbers to 100, exploring how numbers are made up of tens and ones. Later in the half term, they will move on to addition and subtraction, developing their confidence with key number facts and using these to solve a range of mathematical problems.

**Science** - This half term, the children will become wildlife scientists as they explore the fascinating world of birds. Using the work of naturalist and conservationist Chris Packham as inspiration, the children will develop their scientific observation and enquiry skills through practical investigations, research and exploration of our school environment. They will learn how to identify and compare different birds, explore the features that help birds survive and investigate what birds need from their habitats. Year 2 children will build on this learning by exploring habitats and microhabitats and discovering how birds obtain their food through simple food chains.

Our EYFS children will be learning all about their bodies and senses, exploring how they can see, hear, smell, taste and touch the world around them. They will also begin to notice the changes that autumn brings, observing the natural world as the seasons start to change.

**Geography** - This half term, the children will be developing their understanding of where they live and the wider world around them. In Year 1 and Year 2, we will begin by exploring the seven continents and locating the United Kingdom on a world map before learning about the four countries of the UK and their capital cities.

They will develop their map skills by learning to use compass points and directional language, before putting their learning into practice through fieldwork around the school grounds, creating their own maps, routes and keys.



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**Kindness** - This half term, we will explore the Christian value of kindness through our Harvest celebrations. We will think about the needs of others and how small acts of kindness can make a big difference. Through our Harvest food donations, children will consider how we can help and support members of our wider community and show kindness to those who may need it.

**Respect** - As we learn more about birds and the natural world, we will explore the Christian value of respect. Children will be encouraged to think about why it is important to respect and care for all living things and the environments in which they live. We will also reflect on how we can show respect towards one another, recognising that everyone has their own unique qualities and deserves to be valued.

**Rationale** - Our Free as a Bird learning experience has been designed to inspire curiosity about the natural world through the fascinating theme of birds. Children will explore how birds live, grow and survive, while developing their skills as scientists, geographers, writers and artists.

Through practical, creative and enquiry-based learning, children will be encouraged to observe, question and explore. The unit will culminate in the creation of a bird-friendly area within our school grounds, giving children the opportunity to use their learning to make a real difference to the environment around them.

**Art** - This half term, our art learning will focus on the work of American collage artist Deborah Roberts. We will explore her colourful and imaginative portraits and think about the ideas of identity, uniqueness, similarities and differences that are represented in her artwork. They will then design and create their own unique collage portraits, inspired by her distinctive style, before reflecting on and evaluating their finished artwork. .

In EYFS, children will develop their observational drawing skills by exploring how to draw people, noticing the different features of the human body and face.

**Outcome** - As the outcome of our Free as a Bird learning experience, we will work together to create a bird-friendly area within our school grounds. The children will use what they have learned about birds and their habitats to think carefully about what birds need to survive and thrive.

Together, we will explore ways to make our school environment more welcoming to birds, creating features such as bird feeders, nesting areas and spaces for birds to find food and shelter. Our new bird-friendly area will provide a lasting legacy of our learning and give the children opportunities to continue observing and caring for the wildlife around our school.

**Take Home Task**- Become a Bird Detective and spend some time looking for birds where you live! Can you spot, photograph or draw some of the birds you see? You could keep a Bird Detective Diary and record: What birds did you spot? Where did you see them? What time of day were they there? What were they doing? What did they look like?

You could present your findings as a bird diary, poster, scrapbook, fact file or photographs with captions. **Bring to school by the 19th October.**

**Hook** - We will begin our Free as a Bird learning experience by taking part in a range of exciting bird-themed activities. This will include designing and making their own bird feeders, designing birdhouses and researching fascinating birds from around the world.

This hands-on experience will spark curiosity and provide an exciting starting point for our learning about the fascinating world of birds.

## How you can support your child at home:

- Practicing 2's, 5's, 10's times tables. (Y2)
- Reading five times a week
- Talk about what they are learning at school
- Helping them to learn to read and spell their Common Exception Words.
- Working together to complete their Home Learning.