

## Knowledge Organiser Spring 1 2026:

**The Big Question: Who is afraid of?** Links with: Africa, Rainforests, Savannahs and Jungles



### Fun Facts

A rainforest is a type of jungle.

A rainforest is a thick forest of tall trees which is found in tropical areas where there is a lot of rain.

Rainforests are in danger from being destroyed forever; to make paper.

You can help by going green and recycling paper to help save the rainforest.

Over half of the world's species live in a jungle environment.

### Jungle:

A jungle is a forest in a tropical country where large numbers of tall trees and plants grow very close together.

### Savannah:

A savannah is like a giant, sunny park with lots of grass and a few trees, found in warm places like Africa where animals like lions, elephants, and zebras live.

It has a wet season (like a mini-rainforest) and a dry season (when it gets hot and fires can happen). These fires help new grass grow, giving food and space for amazing animals to roam in the sunshine!

I have placed different photographs at the end of [Key](#)

### Questions

- Revisit Where do we live
- Where is Africa on the world map / globe
- What are jungles and rainforests?
- What are desserts like?
- Where do different animals live?
- What is a carnivore / herbivore?
- What is a habitat?
- What does the word camouflage mean?
- What does music sound like in Africa?
- What are different types of weather?

### Activities we will cover:

We will be exploring the country Africa which have jungles, savannahs and rainforests in them. We will compare them to our local environment which we studied last term.

We will look at Jungles and Rainforests and find them on the globe.

We will learn about different types of weather.

We will be looking at a range of animals and comparing the similarities and differences between them.

We will learn facts about jungle animals and create and make lots of different animal themed art work.

We will compare where we live to living in Africa in the rainforests, savannahs and jungles.

### Key Texts:

One day on our blue planet   In the Savannah   The Ugly Five

Bear Hunt

We're going on a lion Hunt

The Tiger who came to Tea

Gruffalo

### Vocabulary we will cover:

United Kingdom

Africa

Country

Savannah

Rainforest / Jungle

Desert

Habitat

Camouflage

Silhouette

Carnivore / Herbivore

We will also recap on the key vocabulary from autumn 2 2025:

Prey

Predator

Hibernate

Nocturnal

## Communication and Language

To follow instructions involving several ideas or actions.

To give attention to what other people say and respond appropriately.

To express themselves effectively, showing awareness of listeners' needs.

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

To discuss what makes a good friend.

To play co-operatively, taking turns with others.

To try new activities and say why they like some activities more than others.

We will be thinking about being healthy and what makes us happy.

## Phonics:

### Little Wandle

#### Nursery Phase 1:

Foundations for Phonics develops children's phonological and phonemic awareness through fun, engaging games and nursery rhymes.

Developing these skills in Nursery lays the best possible foundations for learning phonics in Reception.

There are two aspects to Foundations for Phonics: Rhyme time and Tuning into sounds. Rhyme time explores rhyme to build up a bank of shared language, develop children's understanding of the world and familiarity with the sounds in words.

Tuning into sounds teaches phonological and phonemic awareness through games. The children will be thinking about what objects begin with different sounds eg:

S - sun, snake etc.

## **Reception:**

Revise phase 2

### **Revise previous tricky words:**

I as of the to put pull full and  
has his her go no to into push  
he, she, we, me, be, her

### **Reception Spring 1**

	Phase 3 graphemes	New tricky words
Week 1	ai ee igh oa	
Week 2	oo oo ar or	was you they
Week 3	ur ow oi ear	my by all
Week 4	air er words with double letters: dd mm tt bb rr gg pp ff	are sure pure
Week 5	longer words	

## Reception Literacy- Reading & Writing

To read and understand simple sentences.

To use phonic knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately.

To also read tricky words.

To use their phonic knowledge to write words in ways which match their spoken sounds.

To write some irregular common words

To write simple sentences which can be read by themselves and others. Some of these words are spelt correctly, others are phonetically plausible.

### Physical Development

To show good control and co-ordination in large and small movements.

To handle equipment and tools effectively, including pencils for writing.

Children know the importance for good health of physical exercise, and a healthy diet, and talk about ways to keep healthy and safe.

### Maths:

#### Nursery:

##### Number

Count in lots of different ways and at different opportunities (actions, jumping, clapping)

Beginning to represent numbers using fingers

Count reliably from 1 to 5, pointing to each object as we count.

Understands some talk about immediate past and future, e.g. 'before', 'later' or 'soon' Use positional language

Shows awareness of shapes in the environment

#### Reception:

##### Introducing zero

Ongoing opportunities to explore and apply the understanding of 'nothing there' or 'all gone' - the number name zero and the numeral 0 used to represent this idea.

##### Comparing numbers to 5

To be able to compare numbers, one quantity can be more than, the same as or fewer than another quantity.

To be able to use a range of representations to support this understanding and encourage the children to compare quantities using a variety of objects and representations.

Composition of 5, five wise

To be able to continue to develop the understanding that all numbers are made up of smaller numbers, composed of 2 parts or more than 2 parts.

To be able to notice the different compositions of 4 and 5.

##### Comparing Mass

To be able to make direct comparisons holding items to estimate heaviest, use balance scales to check.

To be able to use language of heavy, heavier than, heaviest, light, lighter than, lightest.

### Comparing Capacity

To be able to show an understanding of full and empty to show half full, nearly full, and nearly empty.

### Number 6,7 and 8

To be able to represent 6,7,8 in different ways, count out from a larger group.

Combining two groups

To be able to use real objects to combine and see how many altogether.

### Expressive Arts and Design:

To safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.

To use what they have learnt about media and materials in original ways, thinking about uses and purposes.

To represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role play and stories.

### Home Learning challenges:

The challenges are due into school week beginning Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 **Please choose one of the activities below:**

- Create a jungle scene out of different materials.  
Talk about the different animals, patterns and environment.
- Create an African animal out of reclaimed materials.
- Draw or paint a picture of an African animal and where it lives. If your child is in Reception can they find out some non-fiction facts about the animal and write one of the facts on their picture.







