

# Class Reception

*The Bliss Charity School*



## Term 1

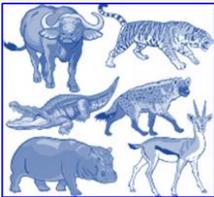


Dear parents/carers,

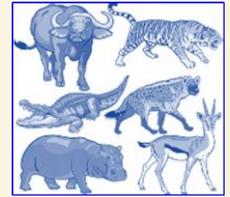
Welcome - or welcome back - to The Bliss Charity School. We hope you had a relaxing but fun summer and you are all feeling ready and eager for a super start to your child's learning experience at 'big school!' Thank you for letting us visit you and your child over the last few days. This has definitely been a positive and informative opportunity for us and hopefully for you and your child too. If you have not yet shared your child's 'Getting to know me' booklet with us, please can this be brought into school.

Hopefully we will explain the first term to you in this newsletter but if you have any queries please come and see a member of the team and we will be happy to explain things further. We are very much looking forward to working with you this year to ensure your children have an amazing learning experience.

*Mrs. Caller and Mrs. McNair*

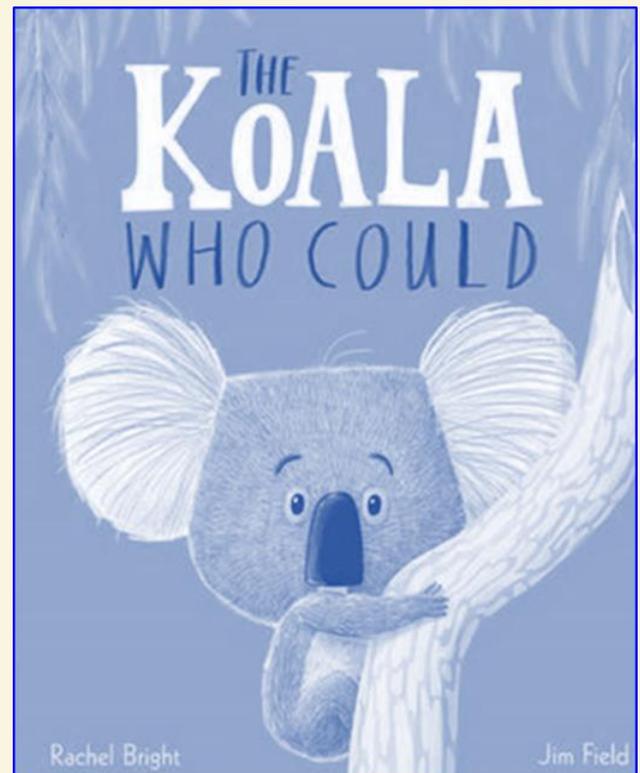


## Term 1 Topic: *Wild Animals!*



Following on from our induction book *The Koala Who Could*, our first topic this year will be 'Wild Animals'. We hope you enjoyed reading this book with your child over the summer and we look forward to hearing them tell us all about the story. Along with this book, the children will experience many other texts linked to our topic during Term 1, investigating both fiction and non-fiction books about wild animals.

Over the next six weeks, we will be investigating wild animals through many areas of the early years curriculum. The children started some creative work linked with our topic during their induction visits and they will continue with these in the first few weeks. They will also be developing their creative skills in music when they learn and perform songs about animals. The children will also be designing animal enclosures and cages using small and large construction. They will also develop their counting skills to help create an even more amazing 'learning loft', and they will have to count accurately to ensure there are the correct number of animals in their enclosures.



The nature of our classroom means that nearly all areas of the Early Years Curriculum are linked with our topic. During your child's first term there will be a clear focus on their personal, social and emotional needs. We endeavor to ensure they are settled and secure in their new environment. The children will have lots of opportunities to play alongside each other, become familiar with the classroom and the adults within it.

During the first term we will be working with your child through interactions and observations to form a baseline assessment. These assessments are used to create learning experiences, linked with our current topic, to develop your child's skills, knowledge and understanding. These assessments will be shared with you at our first parents meeting in October.

In PE the children will show us their climbing and balancing skills and we will develop these on our large climbing apparatus. In addition to this, our focus will be team games where the children will continue to get to know each other and work together. On Wednesday afternoons, which is PPA time, the children will work with Carol to develop their gymnastic skills.

## Helping your child at home ...

In our classroom we have a 'Well Done' board to celebrate children's achievements at home. Please feel free to note down special achievements on a post-it note or a small piece of paper and pop it in your child's book bag so we can share and display them. These help your child with their personal, social and emotional development as well as their communication and language skills.

Your child will be able to select a book from our book corner to bring home and share with you. Please communicate this experience in their reading records as this helps us gain a deeper understanding of your child's engagement with books and text.

We will start learning phonic sounds once we have completed our baseline assessments and these will come home with your child to share with you. In addition, we will start handwriting practice using our *Kinetic Letters* scheme. This will be sent home with the children to complete and then return to us.

We will be holding a reading and handwriting information evening soon to explain these schemes in more detail and how they work in the classroom – further information will follow shortly.

## Class Reception information ...

- PE will be on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday afternoons. Please could you ensure your child has kit suitable for indoor and outdoor PE, particularly now the weather is very likely to change.
- **Thursday** will be our outdoor classroom day so please send your child in clothing suitable for the outdoors. Long jeans, joggers or leggings would be suitable. The children do not need to come to school in uniform on this day.
- Please could you send in a pair of named wellies that can stay at school for your child to use in the sandpit and the outdoor classroom.
- Due to the children's ages and development if you feel the need to supply your child with spare underwear etc. please put these into your child's PE bag.
- We offer the opportunity for your child to have an additional daily snack to that provided by the local authority. This is a great opportunity for your child to try a wide range of foods. We have found this to be a very positive experience for even the fussiest of eaters! We display the snack for the week on the notice board by the Class Reception door so you can see which foods your child has had. We do ask for a donation each term of £8 to cover the cost of these snacks. If you could send this in a named envelope, as soon as possible, that will be greatly appreciated.
- If your child requires any medication please give this to the office. Any asthma inhalers can be given to either Mrs. McNair or myself.
- School meal information has now been sent to you - please register and select meals for your child.
- The morning sessions begin at 8:55am. The afternoon sessions start at 12:55pm. Please wait for the bell before making your way to the reception area either through the red gate in the front playground or from the back playground (am sessions only). Collection of your children at 12:55pm will be through the red front gate only. Collection at 3:15pm can be through either the red gate or the playground. When collecting your child please wait behind the green fence area and we will ensure your child comes to you when we see you are there.
- Please keep us informed regarding contact details for your child, including collection arrangements. This can either be done through the office or via the Class Reception staff.
- Any communication that we have for you will be put into your child's book bag. Likewise, if there is anything you have for us, please put it in the book bag as we check these on a daily basis.

We have an open door policy at Bliss. If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to speak to one of us.

Mrs. Caller