

Willow, term 4, topic 4, Literacy:

*I know that a dragon is mythical but can engage imaginatively and creatively with them. *I have learned about reptiles and certain animal features *I know that some animals hatch from eggs. *I know that Spring is a busy season in nature and that as the weather warms, animals are born or hatch, and plants begin to grow. I can spot signs of spring in the natural world around me. *I know that during spring Easter is celebrated by Christians and chocolate eggs are given as gifts. *I can write for a variety of purposes.

Personal, Social & Emotional

- Children join in with a reptile-handling session and, with support, overcome any nervousness around meeting a new animal. They demonstrate patience awaiting their turn, and gentleness when handling the animal.
- As part of the egg-drop challenge, children channel their inner engineer, planning an approach to the task, building and testing their construction. They show resilience in the face of the challenges.
- Children learn the Easter story, finding out its significance to people of Christian faith. They visit the local church.

Expressive Arts & Design

- While understanding that dragons are mythical creatures, children suspend their disbelief and strengthen their skills of imagination, role-play and empathy.
- Children design and make their own tails, thinking of how it can be used expressively and how they can show expression in movement. They build skills of planning and coordination.
- Children learn the topic song 'My dragon' and others from the Niki Davies Spring and Summer songbook, singing them together.
- Children listen to Laura Doherty, Animal Tracks, experimenting with different ways of moving to the song.
- They explore materials, tools and techniques in a number of art activities, and when constructing their egg drop protection.

Understanding the World

- Children understand that Spring is a busy time in the natural world, with animals being born or hatching from eggs, plants resuming their growth and seeds germinating in soil.
- Children can distinguish Spring from the other seasons, spotting some of the 'signs of spring' around them in nature.
- Children understand the distinction between different categories of animal - wild, domestic, extinct and mythic. They learn about some of the features particular to one animal type - reptiles.
- They learn the Easter story, finding out that it's a special story for Christians.

Books

Dragons and eggstraordinary creatures!



Weekly focus (6 weeks):

- * Is there such a thing as a dragon?
- *Komodo dragons and other remarkable reptiles
 - *Tell me your dragon
 - * Eggstra-ordinary!
- *How - and how not - to take care of an egg!
- *Why do we give eggs at Easter?

Key Vocab

Mythical: existing only in the imagination, as distinct from real life. Unicorns, mermaids and dragons are all mythical creatures. They can be read about in stories, but not found in the world.

Dragons: A mythical reptilian creature. Dragons are traditionally depicted as fearsome winged beasts that can breath fire.

Reptile: a category of vertebrate animal that includes snakes, tortoises and lizards. Reptiles are cold-blooded and are distinguished by their dry scaly skin. They are oviparous.

Oviparous: a female animal that lays eggs. Komodo dragons are oviparous.

Incubate: to keep an egg at the correct temperature until it is ready to hatch. A chicken will sit on an egg to incubate it.

Hatch: to emerge from an egg. A chick hatches from an egg.

Life cycle: A series of changes occurring over the life of an organism, including reproduction.

Seasons / Spring: The year is divided into 4 seasons, each with distinctive natural characteristics and weather. Spring is characterised by a warming of the weather, and a burst of intense activity in the animal and plant world.

Germinate: describes a seed's growth after a period of dormancy. In spring, as the weather warms the soil, seeds germinate, sprouting beneath the ground..

Easter: A Christian holiday or feast in remembrance of Jesus's resurrection. The time of year when it takes place is sometimes referred to as the 'Easter season' or 'Easter Time'.

Sticky Knowledge

- A mythical creature - like a dragon - can be found in stories though not in the real world. An extinct animal, such as a Dodo, once walked the earth, but is no longer in existence, and so cannot be met.
- We can find out about what animal has passed us by by looking at the footprints it leaves behind. Different animals leave differently sized and shaped footprints. We leave footprints - and fingerprints too. Our fingerprints are unique to us as individuals.
- A Komodo dragon is a giant lizard from the Indonesian archipelago - it's named for the features it shares with mythical dragons.
- Reptiles are a category of cold blooded animal with dry scaly skin. Snakes, lizards and turtles are all types



- of reptile. Reptiles can be found in the wild. Some reptiles can be kept as a pet!
- An animal's tail can serve many purposes - it can express a mood, aid movement and balance, and be used for show. Different animals have different tails.
 - Adult animals reproduce and have young. Some lay eggs and others give birth to live babies. Animals that lay / hatch from eggs are oviparous.
 - Oviparous animals care for their eggs while they incubate. Different animals care for their eggs in different ways. When we handle eggs, we must be careful too, as their shells are fragile!
 - We are now in the season of spring, which is a busy time in nature - lots of animals are born or hatch during the spring, plants resume their growth and, as the soil warms, seeds begin to germinate, sending up green shoots. We can spot signs of spring in our natural surroundings.
 - In springtime, the Christian festival of Easter is celebrated. It is held in remembrance of Jesus's resurrection and in celebration of new life. Eggs are typically given as easter gifts for their close association with new life. They are usually made from chocolate.



Books	
	<p>There's no such thing as a Dragon The Lion in the Meadow Forgiven (poem, A.A.Milne) Big tracks, Little tracks There's a Dragon in your book Komodo dragons What if you had an animal tail? Tell me a Dragon Dare to Care: Dragons Zog The Crocodile who didn't like water Chickens aren't the only ones An Egg is Quiet The Egg Egg Drop After the Fall (How Humpty got back up again) Rosie Revere Engineer A Nest full of Eggs Busy Spring The Easter Story The Easter bunny</p>

Links with KS 1/2

RE - Y2 How do Christians celebrate Easter?
 RE - Year 6 - Was Jesus' death a worthwhile sacrifice?
 Science - Year 1 Seasonal changes
 Science - Year 1, 2 and 3 - Animals including humans - life cycles and omnivores, carnivores and herbivores
 Science - Year 5 and 6 - classification of animals
 Literacy - Year 4 - The Malfesance (poem about a monster)
 Literacy - Year 4 - Beowulf (anglo saxon poem about a monster)
 Literacy - Jabberwocky - Year 5 and 6 (poem about a monster)

Enrichment Opportunities	
	<p>Reptile visit to school Learning in the field at forest school Visit to St Mary's church, Whitchurch on Thames Easter egg hunt in the playground</p>