

Week beginning: 25-5-20

Class and Subject: **English**

SEN Teacher: Ms. Hogan



ST. PATRICK'S GIRLS NATIONAL SCHOOL
GARDINER'S HILL, CORK

Hi girls,

Hope you are all keeping well. This week we will be reading and answering questions around the theme of 'Animals'.

This week you will read about garden birds and dogs. Then you will write a persuasive letter to Ms Kelly. Finally you will learn how to out sentences in paragraphs. A very important skill for secondary school.

The suggested work below is to be carried out over a week. Don't worry if you don't get it all done. Uncompleted work could be carried on to the following week. Try your best. Spend 30-45 minutes a day on English. Scroll down through the document to get activities.

**Week
9**

Spelling

Continue with SNIP spellings.

Complete one session per week.

Get a parent or guardian to test you on Friday.

Revise spellings from previous weeks also. You are familiar with how to do this from how we test 'old' spellings on a Friday.

Garden Birds

Whether you live in a village, town or city, you will have seen British garden birds in your garden, school grounds or local park. The UK is lucky enough to have many **native** garden birds. Let's find out about some of them...



Robin

Latin Name:
Erithacus rubecula

With their bright red breast and face, robins are easy to spot, despite being only around 13cm long. You will often hear them singing into the evening with their high 'tic tic' song.

Robins can be seen in gardens throughout cities, towns and villages. They will nest almost anywhere, including inside old watering cans or sheds, in a cup-shaped nest made mainly from moss. They will lay 4-6 eggs (white with sandy or red freckles) between May and July.

Their usual diet includes:

- insects and their larvae;
- spiders;
- worms;
- weeds;
- seeds;
- fruit;
- berries;
- nuts.



Robins may even become very tame and feed out of your hands!

Blackbird

Latin Name:
Turdus merula



Male blackbirds are usually jet-black with an orange beak, whereas females are dark brown with a brown beak. They are larger than robins, at around 25cm long, but can also be heard singing in the evening with their tuneful song.

Blackbirds are found in a wide variety of habitats, including woodland, fields, gardens, towns, cities and countryside. Originally, blackbirds were woodland birds; still usually found nesting in bushes, shrubs or trees. They use grass, horsehair and fine roots held together with mud to form their nests, which are usually lined with grass, and lay their bluish green eggs in them.



Blackbirds mostly eat insects but have been known to have a very varied diet, including nuts, berries, cheese, fruit, newts and shrews – one of the reasons they thrive in the wild.

Blackbirds are also able to catch worms if the grass is soft enough for them to dig with their beaks.



Wren

Latin Name:
Troglodytes troglodytes

Despite their miniscule size, at only 9-10cm long and weighing 8-13g (the same weight as a £1 coin), wrens are not actually Britain's smallest native bird – a title held by the goldcrest, at just 9cm long and 6g in weight. However, wrens are Britain's most common native bird. To spot an adult wren, look out for brown **plumage** and a short tail which constantly flicks.

Wrens are good at hiding in amongst trees and bushes, where they build their nests from grass, moss and leaves and line them with feathers.



Within these nests, adult wrens will lay 5-8 white eggs with brown speckles. When born, young wrens are almost identical to their parents except that they don't have prominent pale eyebrows. Wrens have a varied diet but mainly choose to feed on insects and spiders.



Did You Know...?

Although it is so small, the wren has the loudest song of our native birds; they can be heard making a loud "teck teck teck" call ending in a **trill**.



Threats to Garden Birds and How You Can Help

There are things that we use in our gardens which could harm garden birds, such as:

Netting – People use nets in their gardens to stop birds getting to their vegetables, but birds can become tangled in them. If nets are needed, it is best to use fine mesh nets made of natural material.

Outside lights – Outside lights can confuse birds causing them to collide with windows as they use the light to **navigate**. If you have outside lights, put them on a timer so they do not stay on at night.

Artificial Grass – **Artificial** turf destroys habitats for birds and the insects they eat so it is best to use natural grass wherever possible.



Did You Know...?

Although they are not always **resident** in the UK, nightingales are special summer visitors to parts of southern England. They are very secretive and hard to spot but their melodic song can be heard through the day and night. They are some of the loudest, fastest singers of the bird world!

Glossary

artificial: Something made by humans; not natural.

native: Born in a particular place.

navigate: To find its way.

plumage: A bird's feathers.

resident: Living somewhere permanently.

trill: A quavering sound.



Questions

1. How long are blackbirds? Tick one.

- ☐ 9cm
- ☐ 9-10cm
- ☐ 13cm
- ☐ 25cm

2. Draw three lines to match each bird to the description of their egg.

robin

wren

blackbird

bluish green eggs, spotted
with brown

white with sandy or
red freckles

white with
brown speckles

3. Name **two** habitats that blackbirds can be found in.

- _____
- _____

4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

People use nets in their gardens to stop birds getting to their _____, but birds can become _____ in them. If nets are needed, it is best to use fine mesh nets made of _____.

6. Summarise the information about nightingales in 30 words or less.

7. Why do you think that robins can become so tame that they feed out of people's hands?

8. Why do you think that nightingales are described as a 'special summer visitor'?

9. Why has the author included a glossary? Choose one other word to include and write a definition for it.



Should Every School Get a Wellbeing Dog?

Should every school have a dog?

- A leading expert on education thinks that wellbeing dogs could help children with their mental health.
- However, the Dogs Trust says that schools are busy places, which can make a dog feel stressed.

Some people say they're man's best friend but could **wellbeing** dogs help children at school? Damian Hinds, the Education Secretary, thinks that 'pets can really help' children.

He also said that dogs could be really 'uplifting' and could also help young people in 'expressing themselves'.

The idea was mentioned at a meeting about how to help young people to deal with stress and anxiety. He believes that schools need to help children with their mental health.

Many children have experienced difficulties in their mental health. It's therefore important for schools to find ways to support them.

At the meeting, he received some support for his idea. Sir Anthony Seldon, who was an ex-headteacher and is an educational expert, says that every school should have a dog.

He believes that this would be the 'quickest and biggest hit' to improve children's mental health.

Some schools already have dogs. One school in south-east London has a cockapoo called Maisie. Children can go for walks with her if they feel stressed.

A school in Somerset, south-west England, also has a labrador called Fernie, who helps children to concentrate and to feel calmer.

Not everyone though believes this is a good idea. The Dogs Trust said in a statement that it was 'against introducing a dog in a school



Photo: Dogs help children in some schools.

environment'. It says that classrooms can be busy and unpredictable places for dogs.

According to the charity, this makes a dog feel stressed. While human **welfare** is important, it argues that the animal's needs should not be forgotten.

It has also said that a dog needs an owner. On average, dogs live for 12 to 15 years. A dog cannot simply be passed around teachers as dogs form strong **bonds** with their owners.

While some people believe that dogs can improve children's wellbeing, looking after an animal is a big responsibility.

Glossary

wellbeing	Being comfortable, healthy or happy.
expressing	To communicate what you think about something.
welfare	The health and happiness of a person or a group.
bonds	Strong feelings that bring things together.

Now it's time for you to write a letter. Wouldn't it be great if St. Patrick's had its own school dog? I'm sure you'd agree so this week we are going to write a persuasive letter to the principal, Ms Kelly. Last week you studied the steps to writing a persuasive letter. Look back over these steps, the layout and the checklist. It's up to you now to convince Ms Kelly that it would be a good idea for St. Patrick's GNS to have a school dog. Include at least 3 advantages of having a school dog. Give evidence for your reasons. Ask Ms Kelly questions to get her thinking and make her realise the school needs this. Use words such as firstly, secondly, finally. End with a summary of what you need. Ensure you follow the layout for writing a letter. Look back at the steps from last week's work. If you like you can email the letter/ photo of the letter to learningsupport@stpatricksgirls.net. I would love to see the great work you've been doing!



What are paragraphs?

Paragraphs are a group of sentences written about the same idea or topic. They are used to show when a writer has **changed time, place or argument**. If a writer changes one of these, a new paragraph will start.

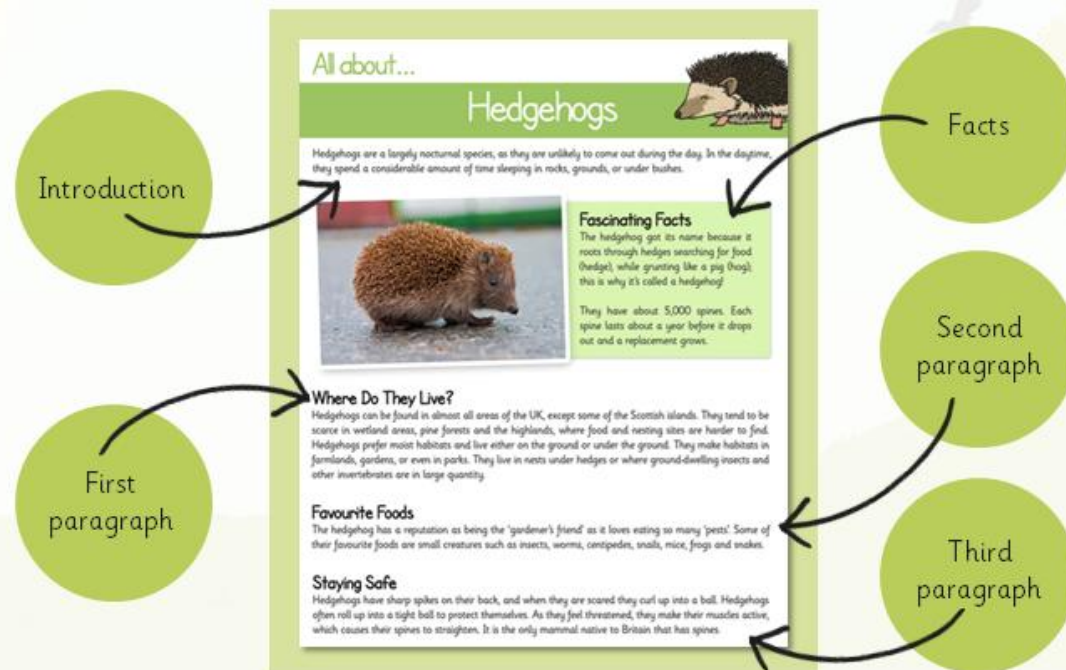
How long are paragraphs?

There is no set length to a paragraph, but all the sentences need to be on the same topic (as mentioned above). Writers will use shorter paragraphs in non fiction writing (due to using lots of different facts) and longer in fiction writing (due to using more descriptive language).

How many paragraphs?

Writers use as many paragraphs as they need to make their writing clear. Some paragraphs have a particular role, such as the introduction or conclusion.

Paragraphs sometimes look like this, for a non fiction text...





Insect Paragraphs

I can identify a paragraph.



1. Read the text and then explain what each paragraph is about.

- a) Insects are bugs and other creepy crawlies. They are the most common type of animal because they live in so many different places, except under the sea.

This paragraph is about _____

- b) Insects don't have bones. They have skeletons on the outside of their bodies. Many insects can fly and are very small which helps them live longer. They have a mouth part from which they spit saliva which helps to digest and suck up food - they cannot chew. Every insect has at least six legs and a body split into three main parts.

This paragraph is about _____

- c) Some bugs attack and eat other bugs. They do this in different ways. Some jump on their prey, some grab their prey, others set traps like hidden holes in the ground. Successful predators survive. Insects have to protect themselves to survive.

This paragraph is about _____

- d) Different creatures find different ways to keep themselves safe. A bombardier beetle sprays a burning liquid at predators to scare enemies away, but brightly coloured bugs use this to frighten off attackers. The bright colours show that they are poisonous. Other insects are so well disguised that they don't even look like insects. Some can make themselves look like the objects around them, such as twigs, leaves or branches.

This paragraph is about _____

- e) At least 90% of the world's creatures are insects. In some parts of the world grasshoppers are a popular food for humans.

This paragraph is about _____

Paragraphs

Answers



1. Read the text and then explain what each paragraph is about.

- a) This paragraph is about **introducing what bugs and creepy crawlies are.**
b) This paragraph is about **how insects' bodies are adapted to help them survive.**
c) This paragraph is about **how bugs catch their prey.**
d) This paragraph is about **how insects survive in the wild.**
e) This paragraph is about **insect facts.**

Mammal Mania

I can identify a paragraph.



1. Read the text together and add // where the subject changes.

Mammals are hairy or furry creatures that are warm-blooded and feed their babies on milk. Most mammals are born but some hatch from eggs. Humans are just one type of mammal – there are 4000 or more different species of mammal. The human mammal group is called the Primates. Most female mammals feed their young on their own milk which provides important nutrients that help the babies grow quickly and strongly. The mammal with the longest pregnancy is an elephant. Elephants are pregnant for nearly two years with their calves, unlike human females who are pregnant for nine months. When the elephant calf is born, it usually weighs about 90kg (or 200lbs). Compare this to the weight of an average human baby, which weighs about 7lbs!

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Answers



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